

Reagan offers talks to Russia

After more than three years of snarling Soviet-American hostility, President Reagan is suddenly talking about the possibility of holding a summit meeting with President Chernenko. At a White House press conference Mr Reagan said he was "willing to meet and talk any time" with the Soviet President even if the Soviet Union did not return to the stalled Geneva nuclear arms reduction talks.

Detective jailed

Det Inspector Peter Lewis was jailed for 18 months at the Central Criminal Court for accepting a £1,000 bribe. He was convicted after the jury heard a tape recording from a microphone concealed in a Christmas tree. Det Constable Peter Bignold was acquitted of the charge.

Teachers' terms

Teachers' leaders say that a claim for the restoration of the eroded value of their salaries, going back 10 years, is an essential element of their arbitration terms.

Still Phillips

Peter Phillips (above) in Transvaal. He leads by 28 miles in the Observer single-handed transatlantic race, but two Frenchmen are closing on him.

Police inquiry

Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has appointed a senior officer to investigate the shooting by detectives of unarmed intruders at a sub-post office.

Belfast shooting

A policeman and a member of the Irish National Liberation Army were killed yesterday after a flat was surrounded by West Belfast. The police said security forces had not fired shots.

Iranians flee

Eight Iranians sought political asylum in Egypt after commencing a plane and flying it to Luxor. They had previously stopped in Bahrain and, according to some reports, in Saudi Arabia.

Trudeau tribute

Canada's Liberals bade an emotive adieu to Mr Pierre Trudeau at a convention in Ottawa.

Losing streak

Mr Brian Johnson, an insurance broker from Surrey, lost £19,247 in six weeks when he dealt with L.H.W. Futures, the commodity broker.

Test centuries

Vivian Richards scored 117 and Larry Gomes 143 as West Indies took a first innings lead of 70 against England in the first Test match at Edgbaston.

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Ban on commercial surrogate mothers to be recommended

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Legislation to ban commercial surrogate motherhood agencies, to control research on human embryos and to make children born by artificial insemination legitimate is to be recommended to the government by the Warnock Committee on artificial reproduction.

The committee completed its 18-month-long study of the complex legal, social and ethical implications of the test-tube baby technique and of the other forms of artificial reproduction on Thursday, in a windowless room in the Department of Health Social Security.

Its recommendations, in a 13-chapter report running to 100 pages of typescript, are to be handed to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, on June 26.

The 16-member committee of doctors, scientists, lawyers and lay people, representing a wide spread of religious views, has produced a legal framework for controlling research and treatment by the new methods.

But on two key issues the committee has split, and three minority reports are likely to accompany the main recommendations. The divisions within the committee will be reflected in a furious public debate this summer, once ministers publish its findings. Legislation to implement them is unlikely before October next year.

On surrogate motherhood the committee is unanimous that commercial agencies, which charge fees to arrange for one woman to bear a child for another, should be banned.

Such agencies already exist in the United States, and last month it was announced that two British women are carrying babies for a fee of £5,500 each for the National Centre for Surrogate Parenting in Washington, which has a British agent operating in Surrey.

The committee has recommended that a permanent national licensing body should be created. Its tasks would include monitoring developments in a rapidly changing field and advising government on what new developments should be permitted - a sort of standing Warnock committee.

All hospitals and clinics which provide test-tube baby treatment would have to be licensed and open to inspection by the body, which would set standards and require that detailed records be kept of success and failure so that long-term research on the effects of the technique can be undertaken.

Clinics and hospitals providing artificial insemination by donor (AID), by which at least 2,000 children a year are already estimated to be born in Britain, would also have to be licensed and to register birth.

No one sperm donor should be allowed to father more than ten children, the committee has recommended, to reduce the chances of half brothers and sisters meeting in later life and producing children who would be at higher risk of genetic defects.

The identity of donors should remain secret, but legislation should be introduced to make a child born by AID legitimate. At present they are illegitimate and legally should be adopted.

On embryo research, the committee has recommended that it should be limited to 14 days after fertilization - the very end of the period when embryos implant in the uterus. This is lower than the 17 days presently recommended by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the point at which the neural tube, which becomes the brain and spinal cord, begins to form.

It is also lower than the limit many researchers in the field would support. They will argue that important advances in understanding how genetic abnormalities occur, in correcting defects in foetuses, and in developing radical new treatments for adults using foetal cells, may be possible if a higher limit was permitted.

The committee, however, feels that 14 days is the safest compromise, with an extension of that time possible of the standing body so advised it. The licensing body would oversee research on embryos to ensure that it is acceptable, and individual research proposals should be approved.

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Price rises trigger 5% higher pensions

By Sarah Hogg and Peter Wilson-Smith

The annual uprating of social security benefits will be based on an increase of 5.1 per cent. This was the rise in retail prices in the 12 months to May, published yesterday, which the Government's cost-of-living guarantee now depends. It would raise the single person's retirement pension from £34.05 to about £35.80 a week, and the married couple's pension from £54.50 to about £57.30.

However, this guarantee now applies to only a limited number of benefits. So Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, who is expected to outline the uprating to the House of Commons on Monday, may well announce smaller benefits for unemployment and supplementary benefit, possibly sweetened by a larger increase in child benefit.

The Government's inflation guarantee covers all long-term supplementary benefit is increased in line with the retail price index excluding housing (which is covered by a separate benefit). This rose only 4.7 per cent in the year to May, which would imply an increase for the married householder on long-term supplementary benefit from £54.55 a week to about £57.10 a week.

The Government may decide to raise unemployment benefit (at present £27.05 for a single man and £43.75 for a married couple) 5.1 per cent, on the argument that its public-sector cash limits allow for overall pay increases of only 3 per cent.

However, the Government has been under considerable pressure to raise child benefit by more than 5.1 per cent, particularly since the Chancellor raised the basic income tax allowance by a full 12.5 per cent in the Budget. A 5.1 per cent increase in child benefit would raise it from £6.50 to £6.83 a week, and Mr Fowler has been pressed to round this up to at least 6.7 per cent. An increase of 12.5 per cent, in line with tax allowance, would raise child benefit to over £7.30, but this is not expected.

Together with some Budget price increases, food increases have helped to raise the all-items index to 351 in May (January 1974=100). But the rise of 5.1 per cent is still below the Government's original forecast for May last autumn of 5.5 per cent.

Output falls, page 23

Debt soft line

The US Treasury Secretary and the head of the Federal Reserve Board have softened their earlier insistence on Argentina complying with the deadline on interest payments to qualify for fresh loans.

Police hunt parents of missing baby Louise

By Alan Hamilton

Police forces throughout Britain have been asked by Scotland Yard to help in the search for the parents of Louise Brown, the Down's Syndrome baby reported missing from south London 18 days ago. The hunt began when police failed to find the couple at their Streatham home yesterday morning.

Louise's father, Mr Paul Brown, a 30-year-old roofing contractor, is expected to face serious charges in connection with the baby's disappearance. His common-law wife, Susan Pullen, and other relatives of the missing baby may face associated charges of aiding and abetting.

Police are also anxious to interview the baby's aunt and uncle, Mr Ian Brown and his wife, Brenda, and her grandmother, Mrs Mary Brown, all of whom have already faced intensive questioning at Putney police station.

Louise was reported missing by her father on May 28. He told police she had been inside his car when it was driven away while he was inside Battersea Road post office. The car was found abandoned two hours later.

Ports and airports were alerted last night to be on the lookout for four people, believed to be Louise's parents and uncle and aunt, who may be accompanied by an older woman and up to five children, aged between two and 12.

The Times launches new Stock Exchange game

The Times is to launch a Stock Exchange game which will give its readers the chance to win many thousands of pounds.

The game is called Times Portfolio. It will start on Monday, 25 June, and run throughout the summer.

The weekly prize will be £20,000, with an additional daily prize of £2,000.

If there is more than one winner of any prize, the prize money will be shared equally among the winners. If there is no winner, the money will be carried forward.

The game can be played by anyone who has a Times Portfolio card. The cards will be distributed with both The Times and The Sunday Times over a period of three days before the game starts and they will be available from other sources as well.

There is no charge for playing the game. Purchase of The Times is not a condition for taking part.

The Times Portfolio card will carry a group of eight numbers which will relate to a list of shares appearing in the financial pages of The Times each day.

The winner of the game will be the person whose Times Portfolio improves most in value on the Stock Market.

"Times Portfolio will be an entertaining summer game," said a spokesman for The Times. "When we ran a television promotion campaign some months ago we found the paper was read by many people who had not seen it for some time."

"Many of them liked what they saw and have continued to read the paper on a regular basis."

"We believe a lot of people have often thought of buying shares but have not liked to take the risk. Times Portfolio will give them an opportunity to make money and become familiar with the workings of the Stock Exchange without any risk."

"We also have a large number of readers who are interested in the Stock Exchange anyway and who check the prices every day and will find it fun to play this game."

"Times Portfolio will coincide with - and draw attention to - an expansion which The Times is making in its Stock Exchange listings."

The Times Portfolio cards will be issued with The Times on Friday, 22 June, or Saturday, 23 June, (depending on individual newspapers).

They will also be issued in The Sunday Times Magazine on 24 June. And it will be possible to obtain them by applying, with a stamped addressed envelope, to:

The Times Portfolio
P.O. Box 40
Blackburn BB1 6AJ



Celebrating: Mr Mike Hancock, Portsmouth's victor, opens a bottle of bubbly.

Tories seek cause of Portsmouth rout

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

While the chiefs and Indians of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties frolicked yesterday in the sunshine of their remarkable by-election victory at Portsmouth South, the Government and their minions at Conservative Central Office were preparing for an autopsy.

They sought the cause or causes of a rout more crushing in its suddenness, though not in its scale, than any since the loss of Orange in 1962.

It was, they said, Mr. Mike Hancock, who becomes the SDP's seventh MP and brings the Alliance rally at Westminster to 24, is a 38-year-old engineer and long-serving district and county councillor, nurtured in the Labour Party, whose achievement is overturning a Conservative majority of 12,535 might swell the head of a less balanced man.

The two parties gave him all they could, switching resources from the European election campaign to win the seat that mattered. But they had nothing to build on except their man's character and political record. There was no lively Liberal base, no organization and no time to improvise one. They picked a local stalwart, from a list of attractive candidates and he did them proud.

Mr Hancock had a kind word yesterday for the defeated Conservative, Mr Patrick Rock, who arrived at the count with his party's assurance that he was the winner by two or three thousand votes, and left a few hours later, pale with shock and knowing he will not easily win another chance to fight a winnable seat.

Mrs Thatcher, for whom he once worked, cheered him with a telephone call to assure him it was not his fault. Indeed, it was more hers, because the result can be read only as a mass withholding of confidence in the Government by perhaps 10,000 voters who supported it 12 months ago.

More detached Conservatives were by dawn explaining Mr Hancock away. He was the wrong man, an outsider who could never have competed with Mr Rock and the equally well-known Labour candidate, Mrs Sally Thomas.

The outsider label was a weakness indeed. But the seat was ripe for rottenness for the Alliance assault, the local party moribund.

Continued on back page, col 6

Miner dies in picket accident

A miner was killed yesterday on a picket line after an accident with a lorry. Mr Joe Green, aged 55, died after trying to talk to a lorry driver at the entrance to Ferrybridge power station, West Yorkshire.

The police said they were treating the death as a fatal road accident.

They said Mr Green, who lived in Knottingley, near Castleford, West Yorkshire, and a handful of pickets were trying to talk to the driver as he went into the power station.

"As a result of this attempt an incident took place. A local collier was injured. He was dead on arrival at Pontefract Infirmary."

"We can only say that we know the driver's attention was temporarily distracted by the incident."

Hundreds of pickets tried to delay development work on the Selby coalfield yesterday. Fifty-two were arrested.

Over 20,000 miners are seeking voluntary redundancy, more than the board needs to meet its job loss target next year.

Back-to-work campaign, page 2

Britain is bottom in voting table

By David Cross

As election officials assembled ballot papers for tomorrow night's vote count in the European elections, it became clear that Britain would once again be left firmly at the bottom of the EEC voting league table.

Official turnout figures from about half of Britain's 78 Euro constituencies showed that only about 30 per cent of the electorate had bothered to vote. The highest turnouts were in marginal seats - like Northumbria, Plymouth and Cornwall - and the lowest in the Labour bastion of London North-East.

Although the final results of Thursday's poll will not be known until Monday, Independent Television News has forecast a virtual doubling of the Labour contingent in Strasbourg from 17 to 33 at the expense of the Conservatives.

According to the poll, the Tories would lose 16 of their 60 seats won in 1979 and the SDP-Liberal alliance gain one seat.

Danish Tory gains, page 8

Three die in oil tanker blasts

By Tim Jones

Three people were killed and 17 injured, some seriously, when a series of huge explosions followed by a fireball ripped through an empty oil tanker in Milford Haven docks, Dyfed, yesterday.

The dead were believed to be a crewmember and two dockworkers.

The first explosion happened at about 2.30 pm, hours after the 4,600 ton Pointsman of London had berthed at the docks for routine repairs. Crewmen and dock workers were in the pump room repairing a faulty valve when the first blast threw them to the floor.

Firemen, who arrived on the scene within 20 minutes, were fighting their way towards the pump room when they too were caught by a second explosion which ripped off their helmets and tore away their jackets.

An eye-witness said: "There was a dull thud, and then a huge explosion, followed by a fireball that went right through the tanker."

A third explosion three minutes later injured two ambulance men as they attempted to reach the firemen and the crew.

The eye-witness said: "The men were very severely burnt. Their clothes were on fire, and they were screaming."

At least 10 of the injured firemen, and Sea King helicopters from RAF Brawdy transferred the most severely injured from a hospital at Milford Haven to the burns unit at Chepstow, 130 miles away.

The docks were sealed off as teams of firemen from all over the county fought to control the blaze, and ambulance men transferred the injured to waiting ambulances.

The Pointsman, 300ft long, is one of 26 ships operated by Rowbotham, the London agents, and regularly carries a gas-oil cargo from Milford Haven.

Mr Gerald Lever, the assistant managing director of the company, said an inquiry would be held into the tragedy. No names were released, so that the next of kin could be informed first.

The Pointsman, which had unloaded its cargo of gas oil at Avonmouth, had arrived in the dry docks for repairs expected to last no more than 12 hours. Dockworkers went on board after the ship had been checked and cleared of any dangerous gas, a police spokesman said.

The dead men could not be reached for more than an hour until the pump room had been filled with foam.

The Pointsman, part of a fleet of 26 ships operated by the London agents Rowbotham Tankships Ltd, regularly carries gas oil from Milford Haven to Southwick, near Brighton. On this particular occasion she had taken on a cargo at Pembroke and offloaded it at Avonmouth.

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Monday



Nuclear scandal
The test that went wrong - and the cover-up that went right



Born to be King
Prince William kicks off a three-part series on the future of the Royal children

CHANEL FOR GENTLEMEN

Doucement...

CHANEL

FOR GENTLEMEN

Teachers to demand end of pay 'erosion'

By Mike Durham of the Times Educational Supplement

Teachers' leaders said yesterday that a claim for the restoration of the portion of their salaries eroded over the last 10 years was an essential element of the arbitration terms that they hope to negotiate with local authorities in renewed pay talks next week.

The unions, which are calling out 26,500 teachers on strike next week, are seeking arbitration "with no strings attached". But the local authorities say that the one condition they are likely to make is that only this year's pay claim should be considered.

The teachers claim that in relative terms, their pay has dropped by 31 per cent since the last overall review of teachers' pay, the Houghton Report, in 1974.

Striking schools, page 6

NGA given leave to defend action

The National Graphical Association was ordered in the Court of Appeal yesterday to make a £45,000 interim payment to Mr Eddie Shah, the owner of the Messenger Newspaper Group in Warrington, Cheshire, over picketing at his premises. The union was given unconditional leave to defend an action seeking exemplary damages being brought against it by the Messenger Group in Manchester on July 9.

The union was originally ordered to pay £73,653 summary damages on March 1. Yesterday's ruling means that the Messenger Group must repay the £28,653 difference with interest.

Irish back giving vote to Britons

Voters in the Irish Republic are in favour of giving votes to resident British citizens in their general elections.

When the ballot boxes for the ninth constitutional amendment referendum were opened yesterday, early indications were that the electorate had backed the government proposal by a large margin.

Council fails

The High Court has ruled against the Conservative-controlled London borough of Bromley, which sought to outlaw council subscriptions to the Labour-led Association of London Authorities. The ruling means the ASA can survive financially. Bromley is to appeal.

Law report, page 8

Coal Board aims to woo miners back to work with money

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board is to mount a new "back to work" offensive next week to persuade more than 120,000 miners to end their 14-week strike.

The likelihood of an early ballot organized by the board receded last night as its managers put together a package of incentives to accelerate the hitherto-disappointing drift of men back to the pits.

The Times understands that it will involve financial and moral pressures to woo the miners away from their union leaders.

Lump sums of holiday pay may be one of the inducements offered. The board also wants to reassure miners in the long-life pits that their jobs are safe and that there could be more employment for young people if the industry solves its present crisis.

If these measures fail it is likely that the board will organize a ballot with a recommendation to accept the MacGregor Plan for Coal, which will lead to 20,000 voluntary redundancies this financial year.

Pits have been open for a return to work since the strike started on March 12, but there has been almost no sign of men wanting to do so in Scotland, Durham, Northumberland, Yorkshire, South Wales and Kent.

Most men have continued working in Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Cumberland.

Attention has focused on the "barometer" coalfields of Lancashire and North Derbyshire. A few hundred have gone back in Derbyshire, whereas one fifth of the miners 7,000 workforce in Lancashire is crossing the picket lines every day and some collieries are producing coal.

Pits are also working in north and south Staffordshire, and Warwickshire.

Further conflict between steel and coal unions seems inevitable after miners' leaders yesterday demanded an immediate halt to the production of finished steel (Barrie Clement writes).

Steelworkers were warned that if they refused to agree, all supplies of fuel to the Llanwern plant in Gwent would be halted at midnight on Tuesday.

The threat came yesterday from Mr Emyl Williams, president of the south Wales miners and a strong ally of Mr Arthur Scargill, the mine-workers' president.

Derbyshire County Council's police committee refused yesterday to pay money owed to other authorities for help in policing the miners' strike unless the Government provides extra help.



Police officers arresting pickets outside the entrance to Whitmoor mine, near Selby, North Yorkshire, yesterday.

MSC urged to expand training plan

By Our Labour Reporter

The Youth Training Scheme should be extended to include all school-leavers aged 17 and some aged 18, according to a paper to go before the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

The MSC's youth training board yesterday endorsed research conducted by commission officials which argued that the system should include higher age groups. At the moment the YTS is available to school-leavers aged 16 along with 17-year-olds, after a period of unemployment.

The study contends that the scheme should be open to school and college leavers aged 18 who are entering longer-term training programmes.

Policeman dies in Belfast gun battle

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A policeman and a member of the Irish National Liberation Army died yesterday in gunfire after security forces surrounded a flat in west Belfast.

Two police officers were also injured when shots were fired from a Russian-made AK47 automatic rifle as they attempted entry.

Police Constable Michael Todd, aged 22 from Lambeg, Co Antrim, died in hospital. Last night his colleagues were described as "ill".

The INLA man who died was Paul "Bonanza" McCann, aged 20, from the Lower Falls area. Mr McCann came from the Lower Falls area of Belfast and was described by INLA as a staff officer of their organization and one of their finest volunteers.

Pig farmers join in attack on ministers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers yesterday denounced the Government's alleged mishandling of a programme to eradicate Aujeszky's pig disease and its refusal to provide financial help.

After the dairy farmers' discontent over the imposition of milk quotas, it has plunged relations between farming organizations and their traditional Conservative allies to their lowest level in memory.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, took the unusual step of issuing a statement describing the pig farmers' criticisms as "unfair and unjustified".

Later he told a National Farmers' Union branch meeting in York that, like his colleagues

At the very least the voters of Portsmouth South have given the Government a rude shock. But might they have done more than that? Will we look back on this by-election as a landmark in British politics.

That depends, I believe, upon two considerations. The first is whether the electorate might now be beginning to blame the Government for the level of unemployment.

It was at the Birmingham, Northfield by-election in October, 1982, that I first became aware that while unemployment was seen by many as a great national calamity it was not regarded as a political issue. Time and again I heard a forceful and articulate Labour candidate expound the evils of unemployment only to be greeted by the response: "But everybody's suffering from it these days."

How could the Government be held responsible for what had become the scourge of the western world? Would it not be like reshuffling the Cabinet in a drought to make the rain come?

This attitude to unemployment has been a dominating factor in British politics ever since. It has meant that Labour has been unable to capitalize on the country's greatest problem, and the Government's greatest failure, because this has been considered politically irrelevant. So long as this remains the public judgment the Conservatives must retain a precious advantage.

A straw in the wind

But when I was looking at the European election campaign in the Bristol area a fortnight ago I was struck by the reasons which were being agreed to vote for the Labour candidate in protest against high unemployment. Admittedly, they seemed to be traditional Labour voters, but a good many of them had declined to accept that line of reasoning in Birmingham, Northfield.

It was no more than a straw in the wind. But now the political editor of *The Times*, Julian Haviland, reports that a more decided influence than the fringes over rate capping on the Conservatives who deserted at Portsmouth "seems to have been a general anxiety about employment, stimulated by the continuing rundown at the dockyard."

If unemployment is now not only seen as a national catastrophe but is also seen as a beginning to determine the way in which people vote, then the Portsmouth by-election will indeed come to be recognized as a political landmark. It will have signified a change in the political climate that will progressively transform the landscape.

But if it is found that there

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

has been no fundamental shift in the public attitude towards unemployment then there will be more than a few crumbs of comfort for the Conservatives to take from Portsmouth.

Can opportunity be seized?

Conservative dominance over the past few years has owed much to a divided opposition. So long as it is not clear whether Labour or the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance presents the greater threat the Conservatives can afford to smile. If the Alliance triumph at Portsmouth South is balanced by Labour doing much better in the European elections that will tend to perpetuate the uncertainty.

This raises the second consideration on which the long-term significance of Portsmouth South will depend: Will the Alliance be able to seize this new opportunity? British political history over the past few years has been punctuated by the regular appearance of new openings from which the Alliance has been unable to profit.

It has now won an important but very much a local success, achieved with a strong local candidate and a concentration of effort upon a single constituency. It is not so well placed to fight across the country as a whole. That is why all the evidence suggests that the Alliance has done much worse in the European elections.

Portsmouth should be seen therefore as providing a new chance rather than a evidence of new strength. It shows what might be achieved if the Alliance could develop an effective organization and a consistent appeal. To do that it needs to sort itself out so that it can develop into a coherent political entity. Only if it does so is Portsmouth likely to mark any significant change in the balance of power between the opposition parties in this country.

PARLIAMENT June 15 1984

Labour seeks shooting inquiry

POLICING

A senior police officer unconnected with the robbery squad is to hold an inquiry into the shooting of two men in a North London post office on Thursday, Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, said in a statement to the Commons. His report will go to the Director of Public Prosecutions together with a separate report on the question of whether offences were committed by the men who were arrested.

Mr Brittan said it would be improper for him to say anything which could prejudice any subsequent proceedings.

When armed police officers had entered the post office they discovered that it had been broken into and two men were inside. There had then been a struggle but it would be wrong for him to comment in detail now on what followed. In a struggle two men whom the police were attempting to arrest were shot. Both were seriously injured. Three shots were fired and both officers had used their firearms.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (Sir Kenneth Newman) had confirmed that the firearms had been issued after the proper procedures had been complied with. The House had placed a heavy responsibility on police officers when they were required to be armed in the course of their duty. That must mean that when firearms

were used by the police the matter must be regarded as a serious one and fully inquired into.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, asked Mr Brittan if the Metropolitan Police had received the rules on the use of firearms. These rules had said quite specifically that a weapon was to be used only in cases of absolute necessity, for example if the officer or person he was protecting was attacked by someone with a firearm or some other deadly weapon and could not otherwise reasonably protect himself or give protection. Press reports did not indicate that such conditions prevailed.

A Scotland Yard spokesman had been quoted as saying: "The threat was there. But the belief in a threat was not the same as the absolute necessity laid down by the Metropolitan Police."

Last December, in the light of the Walcott shooting, the Home Secretary said in a statement that an oral warning should be given. Had one been given in this case? Mr Brittan had also said that the report by the Commissioner had revealed shortcomings in the selection and training of officers for firearms duties which would be looked into. Had these shortcomings been put right? Thirdly, Mr Brittan had said that there was a need for a change. Had this happened?

Even if people are involved in criminal activity (he said) there

cannot, except in the most extreme circumstances, be any justification for shooting them down.

A police inquiry, of itself, will not satisfy public concern. In the light of the clear failure of measures taken after the shooting of Stephen Waldorf, we ask the Government to set up an independent inquiry into the issue and use of firearms by the police.

Mr Brittan I am satisfied that the rules on the use of firearms were complied with. As to whether the rules on the use of firearms have been complied with, that is exactly the matter which is the subject of investigation. It would be highly improper for me or even anybody else to rush to a judgment on that.

On the question of the selection and training of officers in the use of firearms and the need for change, expressed in the light of the Waldorf incident, he was satisfied that the action he had announced in response to that incident of improved selection and training was going ahead in the way he had then indicated.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Tottenham, Lab) asked Mr Brittan to confirm that the criteria against which guns were issued to police was protection of life and not protection of property.

Was it normal for robbery squad officers to be issued with arms? There is anxiety (he said) that there seems to be a general drift, certainly a tactical drift, into the normality of officers carrying arms. It was Mr Brittan's responsibility to tell MPs that he wished to reiterate the principles guiding Sir Kenneth Newman in this business of the Metropolitan Police using guns.

Mr Brittan I am happy to reiterate the Commissioner's principles and to assure Mr Atkinson that there is no question of Sir Kenneth or me supporting or allowing any kind of general drift into the use of arms as a regular matter.

The guidelines and my further announcement are designed to ensure that weapons are issued only under the tightest control and used in the rarest circumstances.

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Home Secretary, said: I agree that these two reports should be made by the Metropolitan Police and passed to the DPP and that they will need time. It would be foolish of us on the basis of newspaper reports to believe that we know the full facts. Will these two reports be brought to the attention of the House?

Should there not be a fuller inquiry into this whole drift?

Mr Brittan said for the moment he was sure that the serious investigation taking place was the right course. Reports in the DPP were not published, but if prosecutions flowed from those reports the matter became entirely in the public domain.

● In the House of Lords the Health and Social Security Bill was further considered in committee and adjourned.

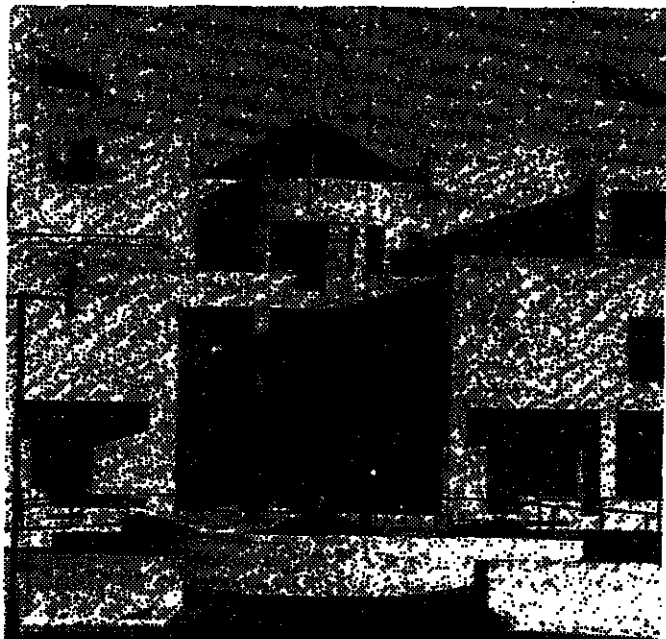
The office designed to be enjoyed

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

One piece of modern architecture to receive royal approval is the National Farmers' Union Mutual and Avon Insurance Group Head Office, Stratford-on-Avon, which was opened by Princess Anne on Thursday.

The £20m building which houses 500 staff, sits in a semi-rural setting in the Avon Valley. It was designed by Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, responsible for the neo-renaissance design of Hillingdon Civic Centre, which deliberately mimics the surrounding pitched and tiled roofs of suburban Uxbridge.

Mr David Lloyd-Jones, project architect, is unsure about the project's stylistic references. The design's axiomatic and some of its starker elements, such as the square windows incised in the elevations of Bath stone, suggests



National Farmers' Union and Avon Insurance building a neo-classical and a neo-rationalist pedigree. The building replaces several smaller office premises in the town centre. The architects examined 22 sites before this one was chosen. It was decided to position the four-storey building well away from existing ones.

North Sea platforms too popular with marine life

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The phenomenon of marine communities of more than 80 different forms of plant and animal life colonizing the submerged legs of the North Sea oil platforms could become rare when a new anti-fouling material invented by Shell is in extensive use.

These marine communities are not peculiar to the oil platforms, but similar to those which would develop in shipwrecks or any other structure that could be described as an artificial reef.

"What they are looking for is a place to settle. What you are seeing is intense competition for space. A oil platform is space," says Dr Robert Ralph, from the Department of Zoology at Aberdeen University.

The same technique is used in the west of Scotland where mussels are farmed. A form of raft is placed in the water and is soon colonized by plants and animals from the sea. Similar methods have been used in San Francisco Bay, using old trams.

The mussels, barnacles, tube worms and others which attach themselves to the platforms develop from planktonic larvae which drift with the ocean currents until they find a suitable home, such as an oil platform. It takes about a year to colonize the legs of a platform completely. The

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Family of US pilot killed on holiday get record £666,000 damages

The widow and two children of an American airline pilot, killed in a road crash soon after arriving in Scotland on holiday, were yesterday awarded record personal injury damages in Scotland of £666,468 by a civil jury at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

At the end of a four day hearing, the jury awarded the widow, Mrs Karen Foot, aged 40, of Minnesota, a total of £424,648 for the loss of her husband, David, aged 39, and for her own injuries suffered in the crash. They had sued for a record personal injury claim of £1.2m.

Her daughter Kirsteen, aged 16, was awarded a total of £111,160 and her daughter Sally, aged 14, was awarded £130,660 damages for the injuries which they suffered, and for the loss of their father.

The family had sued Petrofina UK Limited of Bothwell Street, Glasgow and SMT (Sales and Service) Limited of West Campbell Street, Glasgow, blaming their respective employees for causing the accident.

Mr Foot, a £40,000-a-year pilot with North West Orient Airlines, was qualified to pilot Boeing and DC-10 aircraft and was in line for promotion.

The Foots had claimed they were picked up from Prestwick Airport after arriving in Scotland on April 24, 1980 by a Vauxhall Carlton car driven by Miss Wendy Kidston, an employee of SMT.

Soon afterwards, on the A77 Prestwick to Glasgow road a fuel tanker belonging to Petrofina and driven by their employee, Mr Neil Shaw drove across a break in the central reservation of a dual carriageway to cross to an access road. The tanker was 41ft in length and more than 10ft high.

The Vauxhall hit the back of the tanker and Mr Foot, the passenger in front seat was killed and the rest of his family in the back seat were injured.

The jury heard evidence from witnesses that the Vauxhall car was being driven by Miss Kidston at speeds of up to 100 miles an hour shortly before the crash.

One witness, a lorry driver, Mr Raymond Allan aged 34, of Old Port Avenue, Stranraer, told the jury that just before the crash his lorry was overtaken by the Vauxhall. He said he turned to his passenger and exclaimed: "Look at that new car, going like a bat out of hell".

Miss Kidston claimed in court that she was travelling at speeds of up to 70 mph. She added: "I could not believe that the tanker was going to move into my path".

After the verdict Mrs Karen Foot, a former home economics teacher said: "I hope this case will in some way help the people of this country realize that the speeds they are driving at are deadly". She said that if the speed limit were reduced and lives were saved then her husband's death would not have been in vain.

Mrs Foot added: "I think the jury's verdict was a fair decision, but there is no amount of money that can bring back my husband". The previous highest personal injury damages awarded by a court in Scotland was about £150,000.

Tourists face car hire risks

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Too many British holiday-makers abroad are running foul of hidden pitfalls with cars hired overseas, because the travel trade is reluctant to spell out the dangers, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

The Association's magazine Drive, says: "Holiday vehicle rental can be a minefield, with no shortage of operators ready and willing to rip off the unsuspecting. Badly maintained cars, indifferent breakdown assistance, hidden extras, and, worst of all, inadequate insurance, are the pitfalls awaiting the unwary."

It says the main problem is third party cover in respect of death and personal injury. In Britain, the law demands unlimited liability, but this is not always the case in other countries.

The magazine warns British holidaymakers heading for the United States to buy extra insurance before setting out. It cannot be bought by foreigners in the US itself.

Association staff visited five travel agents in an unnamed medium sized town, posing as customers wanting to book a

fly-drive, or pre-booked car hire holiday to the US. Only one agent mentioned the pitfalls.

● A new AA survey of service charges at 400 British garages reveals price variations of up to 100 per cent for a standard 12,000-miles service. London and southern garages were the most costly. The cheapest were in Tyne-Tees and the Borders.

● The average motorist is now spending almost a penny a mile more to run his car than he did a year ago.



Marriage à la mode: Children from the Golders Green Chinese language school, north London, acting out a traditional Chinese wedding ceremony at the Commonwealth Institute in London. They were among many children who demonstrated marriage rites from around the world. (Photograph: John Voos).

5,000 years of history in a wall

The Roystone Range Trail, Britain's first archaeological walk, is to open next Saturday.

The four-mile trail, between Youlgreave and Ashbourne in the southern part of the Peak District National Park, is the brainchild of a lecturer at Sheffield University, Dr Richard Hodges.

Mr Ken Smith, an archaeologist with the national park, said yesterday: "That the trail would show the development of the landscape over the last 5,000 years".

'Penal tax' blamed for sherry's decline

By Jeremy Warner

There has been a further sharp decline since the Budget in consumption of sherry - once Britain's favourite grape drink, but long since overtaken by wine - and other fortified drinks such as Vermouth, port and Madeira, the Wine and Spirit Association said yesterday.

Mr Arnold Tasker, the association's chairman, blamed "penal tax" for the fall and rejected as "absolute nonsense" that the drinks were simply going out of fashion and had failed to appeal to younger drinkers. Since 1979, sales of fortified wines have slumped by a fifth and it is estimated that sherry has lost about two million drinkers. This is far higher than the fall in consumption of whisky or beer. During the same period, sales of light wines have made steady progress and since the Budget, which reduced excise duty on wine by 18p a bottle, sales have climbed further.

Residents in accord on Alexandra Palace plan

Residents living near Alexandra Palace, in north London have withdrawn their opposition to Haringey Council's £34m rebuilding plans for the ruined building, but only after winning valuable concessions from the council, it was announced yesterday.

Agreement was reached minutes before the Parliamentary deadline, on Monday, for the new Alexandra Palace and Park Bill, which is needed to replace the Act of 1900 before Haringey can proceed with its plans. It was the climax of a five-year struggle, in which residents have opposed the council in the Lords, and forced a five-month public inquiry. They feared Haringey's plans could destroy local amenities by turning it into a grandiose loss-making exhibition centre.

The resident's Parliamentary agent, Mr Chris Hammett, chairman of the local pressure group Save Our Space, said: "We did not get all we wanted, but both sides made real gains."

Haringey have promised that they will accept a new 16-person committee to monitor events at the palace; that they will not build a new Disneyland there; nor will they solicit rates to subsidize the palace, which has never made money in the past.

Mr Hammett added: "We had to give way over the right to build a multi-storey car park."

Courts may stop divorce payments

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Courts will be under a statutory duty to consider whether maintenance orders should cease when the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill becomes law in September.

At present there are about 100,000 maintenance orders between divorced couples. Under the Bill's provisions, if a husband or wife seeks a variation of the order, a court will have to consider whether that order should at some point end.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that this was likely to affect only a very few cases. The Bill's aims, he said, was for finally in a financial settlement, where that could be achieved without undue hardship.

A court might decide to set a date for the ending of maintenance payments to give the parties time to adjust. The provision affects periodic maintenance payments.

The couples most likely to be affected by the statutory requirement are those in which the wife is earning and capable of supporting herself, and where the support of children is not a consideration.

In addition, the Bill gives courts a new power to stipulate when making a maintenance order for a fixed term that it cannot be extended.

Nuclear dumps named

By a Staff Reporter

Dumping sites for low-level nuclear waste have been named by the Government after being identified by the magazine Peace News from official map coordinates. All are at sea, and most are no longer used.

More than 40,000 tonnes of waste were dumped between 1949 and 1976 in deep-water sites, which included one about 20 miles north of Guernsey; three in the Bay of Biscay; three more than 100 miles off Madeira and two west of the Outer Hebrides.

The sites were identified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which is responsible for dumping nuclear waste. Low-level waste comes from hospitals, civil and military nuclear establishments.

Licence refusal 'no slur' on Conteh

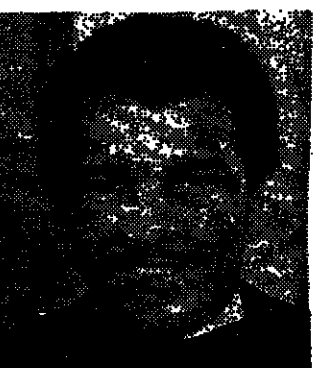
The claim by Mr John Conteh, the former world light-heavyweight boxing champion, that he did not get a fair hearing when the British Boxing Board of Control refused to renew his licence was challenged in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Alan Moses, for the board, said Mr Conteh, aged 33, had ample opportunity to argue his case when the board interviewed him last June.

Mr Moses was opening the board's defence to Mr Conteh's attempt to force a rehearing of his licence application.

Mr Conteh, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, claims that the board's refusal to sanction his comeback was an unlawful restraint of trade and against natural justice, and that its refusal to give reasons for its decision deprived him of the opportunity to meet the case against him.

Mr Moses told Mr Justice Mervyn Davies that the refusal was no slur on Mr Conteh, but the board felt that, if compelled to state its reasons in every case, its ability to reach honest decisions would be impaired.



John Conteh: Questions on personal life

Mr Conteh said that the interview had concentrated on his personal life rather than his fitness to box. He had been asked questions about his drinking and his lifestyle in the two years after his retirement from the ring four years ago.

He needed his licence back to enable him to earn a living, after the collapse of his restaurant business, he said. The hearing continues on Monday.

Train crash hero jailed for killing

A former skinhead who was honoured for rescuing the driver and passengers from a crashed London Underground train in 1980 was jailed for five years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after a jury heard that his introduction to drugs and drink abuse led him to kill.

Joseph Plebanowicz, aged 22, was found guilty of the manslaughter of a North Sea oil worker, Mr Eric Wilson, aged 24. Plebanowicz had denied murder.

He moved into a semi-detached block of flats in Royal College Street, Kentish Town, north London, known as "Madhouse Mansions" and occupied by squatters, alcoholics and drug addicts.

Council clears Nato base

The Western Isles council has granted detailed planning clearance for the second phase of the Ministry of Defence's £40m extension to the Nato base at Stornoway.

It overturned a recommendation by its development services committee to refuse clearance.

Murder remand

Colin Evans, aged 44, a lorry driver of Russell Street, Reading, Berkshire, was yesterday remanded in custody until July 13, accused of murdering Marie Payne, aged four, and three offences of child stealing. Mr Evans said nothing during the half-minute appearance at Barking magistrates court, east London.

Airport strike

Hundreds of holidaymakers yesterday had their flights cancelled because of a 24-hour strike over works schedules by 100 workers at Cardiff Airport. More than 50 flights were cancelled and the airport was left without fire service cover. Flights to Cardiff were diverted to Bristol.

Deaths trial

A man, aged 43, charged with three murders, two rapes and aggravated burglary, was committed at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday to stand trial at a crown court to be decided. He was remanded in custody.

Police remove pupils

By a Staff Reporter

An investigation into a disturbance at the Red House School in Buxton, Norfolk, was launched yesterday after seven teenage pupils were removed by the police late on Thursday night.

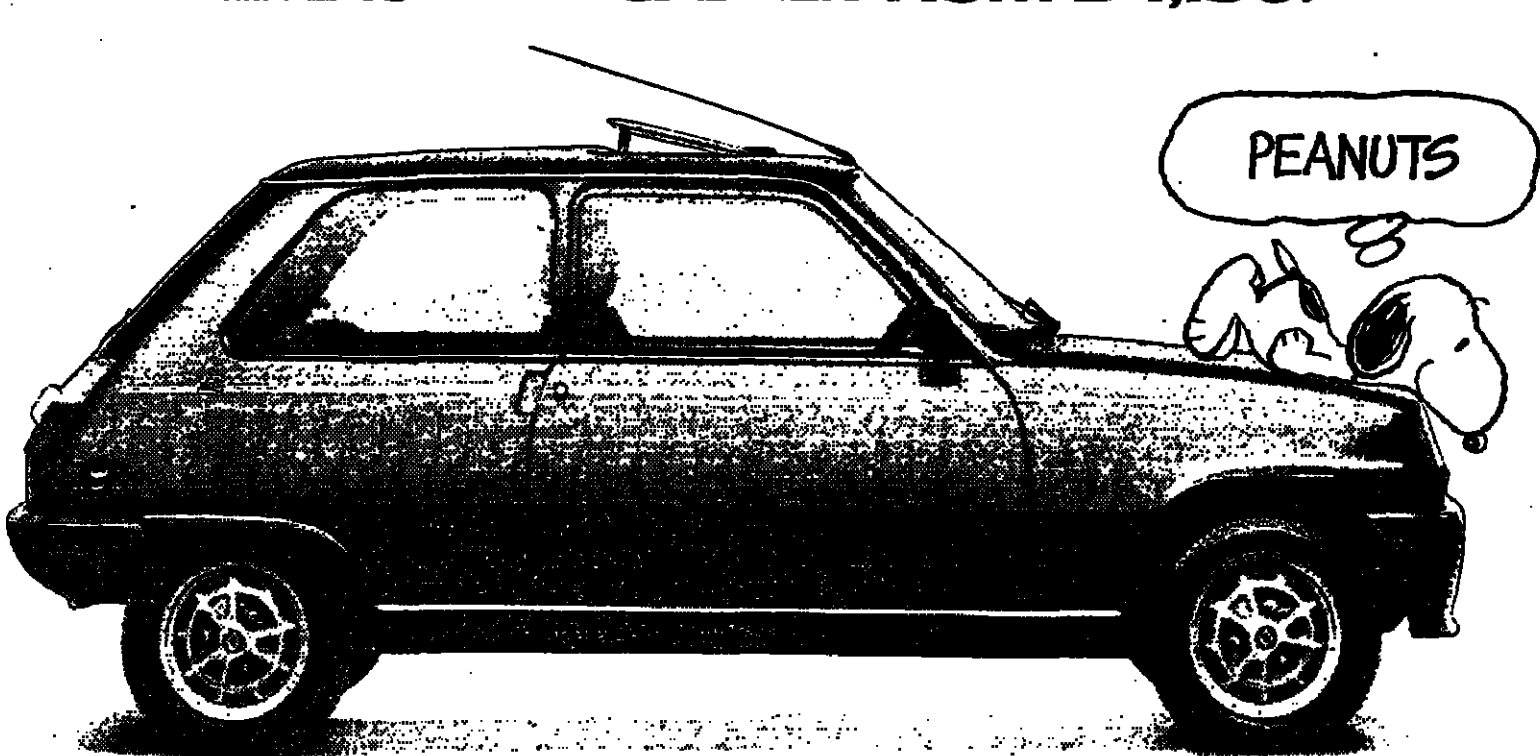
Local people had called the police after seeing bottles thrown, windows smashed and branches torn from trees.

The school is run by a Danish cooperative which is also responsible for a centre on the island of St Vincent, in the Caribbean, where children are said to have run riot.

The seven teenagers, all from London boroughs, are now in the care of the Norfolk County Council social services, whose deputy director, Mr Edward Hackford, said: "Officials from the London boroughs will be seeing me and my opinion is that the children will be placed elsewhere".

There was no comment yesterday from the school's principal, Mr Stenn Conradsen. Meanwhile, some local people have put their homes up for sale since the school moved in at the beginning of last month.

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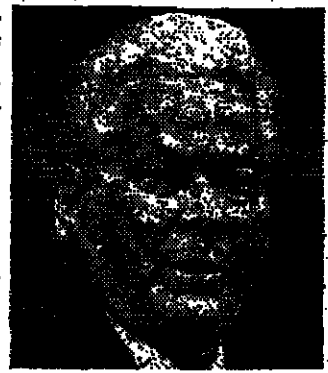
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The search for East/West dialogue

Comecon attack on US makes prospect of summit remote

From Richard Owen, Moscow



Mr Chernenko: The preconditions remain

Prospects for a Soviet-American summit seem more remote than ever after a tough attack on the United States by the Comecon countries and insistence by Soviet officials that a summit would have to be carefully prepared.

A political declaration by this week's Comecon summit, released in Moscow yesterday, accused Washington of jeopardizing the "very existence of mankind", risking nuclear war and persistently using economic sanctions against the Soviet bloc "even in the food trade".

The document "Maintenance of peace and international economic cooperation", called for the consolidation of the détente of the 1970s and for further "honest, equal and constructive dialogue".

But the thrust of the statement was profoundly anti-American and Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, said that a summit between Mr Chernenko and President Reagan was only a long-term possibility. Western diplomats said it was encouraging that Mr Zamyatin had spoken of Moscow's "desire for agreement with the United States" but noted that Soviet pre-conditions for a summit had not changed.

On Thursday night Mr Reagan said that he was ready to meet Mr Chernenko at any time and without conditions. But Mr Zamyatin said there were many questions to be considered before high-level dialogue could become possible.

Diplomats said that the main obstacle still appeared to be the continuing deployment of new

consumer goods and machinery of high quality" instead of selling such goods to the West for hard currency and exporting second-rate products to the Soviet Union.

Sources said that the high price of Soviet energy supplies to Eastern Europe had also caused dissension. Mr Boris Gosted, a senior Soviet economic official, acknowledged that the prices Russia charged Eastern Europe for oil were above world market levels and said that the summit had agreed to bring the cost of Soviet energy imports more closely into line with world prices. But he confirmed that the Soviet Union was reducing oil more profitably on the world market.

Observers note that the summit documents gave no indication that the talks had even attempted the overhaul of Comecon's mechanisms and structures as demanded by more forward looking Soviet bloc leaders. The current integration programme was adopted at the last summit in 1969 and confirmed two years later. But it has run into serious difficulties including the insistence of Hungary, Poland and East Germany on closer trade links with the West rather than with their Comecon partners.

The economic statement said that the transferable ruble, Comecon's trading currency, would be strengthened but did not elaborate. It also said that the role of the Comecon headquarters in Moscow would be enhanced. But this appeared to fall far short of the supranational institution long demanded by Moscow but resisted by the East Europeans.

Reagan lobs ball into court of the Soviet leader

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Like a tennis champion trying to gain the upper hand in the fifth set, President Reagan has slammed the ball deep into the Soviet court by easing his conditions for a summit meeting with President Chernenko.

He has also neatly volleyed his democratic opponents by declaring that he is "very, willing and able" to meet Mr Chernenko even if Moscow did not return to the stalled nuclear arms reduction talks in Geneva.

All of the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination have bitterly criticized President Reagan's arms control record but have blamed him for failing to hold a summit with Moscow during the three and a half years he has been in office.

President Reagan's offer to "meet and talk any time" with President Chernenko was made in response to questions during a televised press conference at the White House on Thursday night.

The President took a far more positive attitude towards a meeting with Soviet leaders. Not only did he refrain from repeating the conditions he had previously laid down - that there should be a specific agenda and a reasonable chance of achieving tangible results - but he went out of his way to say there did not have to be a "pre-constructed meeting" with a list of points agreed in advance.

Furthermore, when asked

whether he would be willing to meet Mr Chernenko even if the Russians did not return to the nuclear negotiating table he replied: "Yes, I'd be willing."

This was a very different President Reagan from the one who not so long ago referred to the Soviet Union as "the evil empire" and has followed a tough anti-Soviet line through-out most of his administration.

During his press conference, President Reagan also made a number of other conciliatory gestures. He abandoned his previous refusal to negotiate with Moscow a treaty to limit anti-satellite weapons, saying that "we haven't slammed the door" to such negotiations.

He was responding to President Chernenko's call earlier this week for talks to ban such weapons. The Administration had responded coolly to the Soviet offer, because it maintains that there is no effective method for verifying a comprehensive anti-satellite weapons ban treaty.

The President also tried to assuage Moscow's fears about the current US military buildup by saying that he did not want nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union - but parity. "I would prefer that we not ask for superiority," he declared.

US officials yesterday described the President's remarks as a change in tone, rather than a new position. They cautioned against the prospect of an early summit being held, pointing to the President's statement that he would not expect them (the Russians) to do anything that might help me in the coming elections.

However, conciliatory remarks made by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the chief Kremlin spokesman, a few hours before the President spoke, have given rise to speculation that Moscow may also be beginning to show more interest in a summit.

The President made clear that it was now up to Moscow to return his forward drive to the summit. He blamed the Soviet leadership for the current near-breakdown in communications between the two super-powers and emphasized: "I am willing to talk and meet any time."

Mr Reagan speaking in the White House

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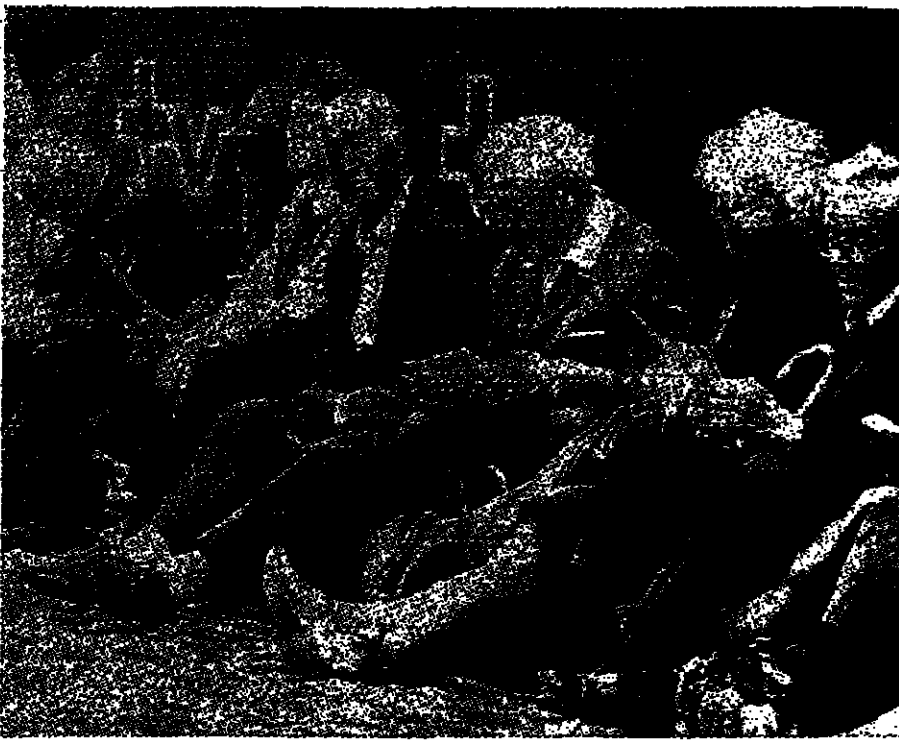
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Mr Reagan speaking in the White House



Swiss watch: Elderly Swiss (above) wait to see the Pope at Einsiedeln yesterday where (right) he consecrated an altar in the abbey during his tour of Switzerland.

Chernenko haunted by shade of Andropov

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow

The shade of Yuri Andropov returned yesterday to haunt President Chernenko with glowing tributes to the former leader in *Pravda* and other Soviet papers.

The Kremlin's normal custom is to bury deceased leaders rather than praise them. With the exception of Lenin most have been consigned to oblivion. President Brezhnev was hardly mentioned after his death in 1982, and the anniversary last November passed unmarked.

Yesterday's remarkable tributes to Mr Andropov, who died in February, appear to be a deliberate move by his protégé to ensure that his legacy remains alive.

Although a personality cult has been built up around Mr Chernenko, key Andropov supporters such as Mr Gorbachev, the Kremlin number two, remain in positions of power. They also remain committed to Mr Andropov's policies of managerial reform and economic efficiency, as well as his anti-corruption drive and discipline campaign.

The *Pravda* tribute, entitled, "A Life devoted to the people", marked what would have been Mr Andropov's seventh birthday. It charted his rise to the top by way of the KGB, and described him as an experienced and wise leader who had understood the Soviet masses.

This week, while Mr Chernenko was opening the first Comecon summit for 15 years, a large plaque bearing a portrait of Mr Andropov was unveiled on the block of flats where he and other VIPs maintained their city residences. The memorial is still surrounded by mounds of freshly-cut red flowers, in contrast to a similar plaque commemorating Mr Brezhnev not far away, which is virtually unnoticed.

"The struggle between the Brezhnevites and the Andropovites goes on", said one informed Soviet source.

Mr Chernenko, aged 72, has only occasionally mentioned his predecessor since coming to power in February with the support of party apparatchiks dismayed by the purges and policy changes of the Andropov era.

Iranians defect to Egypt in jet

Cairo (Reuters) - Eight Iranians, apparently defectors, commandeered an Iranian airliner yesterday and flew it to Luxor in Upper Egypt, where they sought political asylum, Egyptian Defence Ministry officials said.

The officials said the aircraft, a two-engine Fokker Friendship F27 transport plane, carried only eight people and not 44 as originally thought by Egyptian authorities. Some of those on board were reported to be military personnel.

Officials at Luxor airport said that two of those on board had disembarked to conduct negotiations. The aircraft touched down at Luxor at 2.30pm (1.30pm BST), after earlier landing at Bahrain and, according to Bahrain aviation sources, in Saudi Arabia.

Defence Ministry sources said they understood the F27 was being used as a Navy transport.

There have been several incidents in recent months in which Iranian defectors have flown aircraft to Arab states. According to diplomatic sources, an Iranian fighter pilot defected last month to Saudi Arabia, and other Iranians flew a helicopter to the Egyptian Red Sea port of Safage.

Arab Gulf States have seemed anxious not to provoke Iran into escalating attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, which could explain why it had to fly on to Egypt, the sources said.

Egyptians, militarily much more powerful than the Gulf states, are probably less sensitive; they gave refuge to the late Shah, who is buried in Cairo.

Egyptian security named the aircraft's commander Lieutenant-Colonel Hussain Ghaderman and his co-pilot as Lieutenant-Colonel Mohamed Shobek. The two disembarked and negotiated with the Governor of Qena, Mr Abdel-

Halim Said, whose jurisdiction includes Luxor.

NEW YORK: Iran and Iraq have reached agreement on the creation of a United Nations observer mission to monitor compliance with the limited ceasefire in the Gulf war with regard to civilian targets (Zoriana Fysarivsky writes).

Although final details of the observer force have still to be worked out, sources say that the mission will consist of about a dozen observers, who will either be drawn from the UN truce supervision organization, with headquarters in Jerusalem, or a new force will be set up specifically for the Gulf.

BERNE: The Swiss Foreign Minister, Mr Pierre Aubert, has ordered an inquiry into allegations in the French satirical magazine, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, that Iranian diplomats and Israeli arms dealers had met at the Swiss Embassy in Paris (Reuters reports).

Passer-by injured in S African blast

Johannesburg - An explosion on the premises of a second-hand car dealer injured one black man in the chest and legs, damaged about 10 cars and shattered windows in buildings across the street in central Johannesburg yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes).

A police spokesman said the explosion went off under a car, but it was not possible to say if it was a bomb. Eye-witnesses said the injured man, who has been named as Mr James Matabane, had been walking along the pavement outside the used-car lot at the time of the blast. An ambulance, a fire engine and the police arrived and the area was cordoned off.

Extortionist is still suspect

Chicago (AP) - James Lewis, aged 37, sentenced here yesterday to 10 years prison for trying to extort \$1m from the makers of the drug Tylenol, is still a suspect in the deaths of seven people who died from cyanide-spiked bottles of the painkiller, a federal prosecutor said.

Lewis admitted during his trial writing to the manufacturer demanding the money "to stop the killing". This raised doubts about his innocence, Mr Dan Webb, US attorney said.

Thief hanged in Sudan

Khartoum (Reuters) - A convicted thief was hanged in public yesterday and his body left on display for 30 minutes in the first such execution since Islamic Sharia law was introduced in Sudan last September.

A planned crucifixion of the body was abandoned, apparently because the necessary equipment was not available. Later, two convicted thieves had their hands amputated.

Fibre first

Tokyo (APF) - The world's first commercial submarine cable using optical fibres will be laid between Honshu and Hokkaido islands today, the state-owned Nippon Telegraph & Telephone company said. Two inches wide, the 2m cable has capacity for 34,560 telephone circuits.

Frontier delays

Aosta (AFP) - Hundreds of lorries were held up yesterday at Italian frontier posts on the fourth day of a customs overtime ban over a pay and staffing dispute. The Mont Blanc and Brenner Pass routes were normal.

Governor to die

Ankara (Reuters) - Saim Sener, former governor of a prison in Izmit, near Istanbul, has been sentenced to death for fatally beating a prison inmate, Sadan Gazeteci, in 1980. Five prison warders were jailed for up to 17 years.

Witchcraft fear

La Baule (AP) - Two hundred farm animals, including rabbits, chickens, ducks, a goat, and a lamb, had their throats cut around this western French town this week. Noting that the 50 adult rabbits slain had also lost an eye, locals suspect witchcraft.

Record grain harvest makes EEC tremble

From Ian Murray, Brussels

This year is likely to see perhaps the largest cereal harvest the world has ever known - and EEC officials are already trembling at the prospect of all the trouble that will cause.

If estimates are right, then the EEC harvest alone will top 128m tonnes and could even be as high as 134m tonnes. This is considerably higher than the 116m tonnes "threshold" imposed by the Community this year in an attempt to cut down production of expensive surplus.

In consequence, grain farmers face cuts in prices next year of anything up to 7 per cent, as the Commission struggles to eke out its finances and reduce the soaring cost of storing and selling unwanted surpluses.

These big cuts now seem inevitable, and the Commission will have to do its best to warn farmers of the problems which lie ahead if they continue producing at present levels. Dairy farmers have complained loudly that they have had to suffer from savage cuts in income without due warning because of new Community milk quotas. Cereal producers are being given early warning that they risk a similar fate.

Face of statue found

From Mario Mochiano, Athens

The missing face of the colossal ancient Greek Kourous (young man) statue found on the island of Samos four years ago, suddenly turned up when German archaeologists explored a vineyard nearby.

Dr Helmut Kyrieleis, director of the German exca-

vations in the sanctuary of Hera, said the face was found buried barely 4in from the surface, not far from the place where the torso had been uncovered.

The face carried that enigmatic smile one associates with sixth century BC statues.

Refugees find China too harsh

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Most of the refugees from Laos who volunteered to be resettled in China are reported to have fled into Burma and Thailand.

Some 300 have already reached Thailand and, according to Western aid workers on the Thai-Burmese border, another 2,000 have now arrived there.

In 1980 more than 2,700 Laotians in Thai refugee camps volunteered to be resettled in Yunnan province in southern China.

Four months ago 300 of those Laotians arrived on a small island in the Mekong river, which marks the Thai-Laotian border. They had sailed down the river after trekking through jungle and mountains for two months after leaving Yunnan province, apparently without hindrance. Laotian authorities on the island said the refugees could not stay there.

Last week United Nations officials evacuated them from the island as it was about to be engulfed by the rain-swollen river. They are now in a transit camp outside Bangkok waiting to go back to China.

Many of them, however, are refusing to go back, complaining that life is too harsh. They say there are no jobs for them and they cannot speak the local dialect.

Some with relatives in the United States, France and other Western countries obviously hope they will be able to go there.

However, that Thai Government is insisting they return to China. UN officials admit they are in a dilemma, since to force refugees into a country against their will contravenes the basic rule of the United Nations' refugee operations.

Troops man rooftops as Uruguay bans rally

Montevideo (Reuters) - Troops manned rooftops and hospitals cleared emergency wards yesterday as Uruguay's military Government appeared set to confront a massive rally called to mark the return from exile today of the banned presidential candidate Señor Aldunate.

Authorities reinforced a ban on demonstrations, warning the public to keep away from the rally called by the opposition Blanco party to welcome home its 65-year-old leader.

"Those who organize or take part in (demonstrations) will run the ensuing risks besides being liable to punishment", a Government radio broadcast said.

Military sources said troops were preparing to move towards the capital. Residents reported

that armed sailors were taking positions on rooftops in the port area where he is due to arrive after crossing the River Plate from Argentina.

BUENOS AIRES: Marches by right and left-wing groups of Falkland war veterans in Argentina drew a low turnout as most people preferred to ignore the second anniversary of the surrender at Port Stanley.

An organization of former conscripts who are demanding medical and social benefits from the government attracted a crowd of about 3,000 youths for a march to the National Congress. A second march organized jointly by a separate veterans group and a fringe right-wing nationalist group, drew only about 300 supporters.

Nicaraguans send rebels fleeing to Costa Rica

From Martin Honey, San José

About 5,000 Nicaraguan soldiers are sweeping along the San Juan river, sending wounded and deserting rebels fleeing into Costa Rica, in the largest operation launched against anti-Sandinista guerrilla bases in southern Nicaragua.

According to Costa Rican and Nicaraguan officials, guerrillas from the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) have put up little resistance since the offensive began last weekend.

ARDE's estimated 1,600 combatants located along the river, which divides Nicaragua and Costa Rica, are said to be desperately short of ammunition, food and clothing and virtually leaderless. ARDE commander Señor Eden Pastora and another top official were

seriously wounded when a bomb exploded at a press conference last month. Another commander, known as "Tadeo", is reported wounded in the current fighting.

Last month the CIA suspended its covert deliveries of money and supplies to ARDE, after Commander Pastora's refusal to form an alliance with the Honduran-based anti-Sandinista movement, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

Señor Edmundo Solano, the Costa Rican Minister of Public Security, described ARDE's forces as "demoralized" and "disintegrating" and said Costa Rica is getting ready for a massive influx of fleeing combatants.

German unions and bosses bow to pressure

From Michael Binyon Bonn

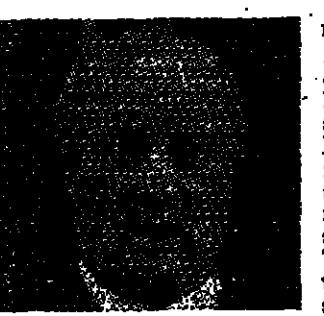
The giant metalworkers' union, IG Metall, and the engineering employers announced yesterday that they are willing to call in outside arbitrators in an attempt to end the strike, now in its fifth week. Both sides agreed to invite Herr Georg Leber, a former Social Democrat Minister of Defence, to chair an eight-man panel.

The employers, however, said that all decisions in the conciliation process would have to be unanimous. They also want the arbitrators to deal jointly with the negotiations in the Frankfurt and Stuttgart

areas, which IG Metall prefers to keep separate.

No date has been fixed for the arbitration, but pressures on both sides to end the damaging strike are growing. The union has already paid out more than half its strike fund of DM425m (about £110m) and 47 million man hours have been lost.

Chancellor Kohl again firmly decried on Thursday that the Government was ready to intervene, saying it was more sensible if those involved sat down together. Herr Norbert Blum, the Minister of Labour, yesterday welcomed arbitration and criticized what he saw as the language of the class struggle on the union side. He



Herr Georg Leber: Man in the middle.

also chided those employers who thought they could smash the unions. The strikes have already

made about 400,000 people idle, and more will be affected on Monday when employers have threatened to lock out another 30,000 workers in the Frankfurt area. Car companies, now at a standstill, have put their losses at billions of marks. The General Motors subsidiary, Opel, announced on Thursday that it has lost more than DM1,000m and, if the strike continued, it would threaten investment plans and cut Opel car production in Europe by 10 per cent a year.

In a separate dispute about pay, Lufthansa's internal flights were held up yesterday when employees staged warning strikes lasting two hours.

As of June 18th, 1984: An historical event in the Egyptian Press

Al Ahram's International Edition

Al Ahram

Will be available daily to every Egyptian and Arab in all the capitals of Europe, Canada and the United States.

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From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi ,

Uganda revival prompts change in currency rate

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

For the past two years, foreign exchange for non-essential imports has been auctioned by the Central Bank at a rate

Rival prompts currency rate

preciated sharply in recent years but President Obote this week increased payments to farmers for coffee, cotton, tea and tobacco.

In safe hands: Oslo's curator, Mr Leif Plahter, shows the stolen works

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The offer falls somewhat short of an earlier demand from Pretoria that the fraud allegations should be investigated

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

The petition signed by 230 people, was addressed to the state presidency and it called on its nine members to use their constitutional prerogative to enable the hunger strikers to defend themselves. Such a move would safeguard against

From Our Own Correspondent Athens

Herr Albert Farwick, Chief Public Prosecutor of Hanau said at a press conference: "These paintings were among

From Robert Schul

The skilful handling by Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, of the cruise debate in the lower house on the eve of the elections, is thought to have improved his party's election result.

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The opposition is accusing police of bias and unnecessary brutality, and has asked the Prime Minister to replace the Athens police chief.

What adds such savage fanaticism to a campaign which seems tedious elsewhere in Europe is that few Greeks, blinded as the majority is by passionate domestic feud, can see a European dimension in these elections.

The ruling Pasok Socialists are obviously jittery. A big defeat tomorrow and power could easily slip through their fingers. Their conservative New Democracy rivals are in a hurry to get rid of the "Marxists".

From Our Own Correspondent Athens

tions seemed to evoke in most other EEC countries. In Greece voters are behaving as if they are electing their next government tomorrow.

and government voters to join forces to bring down the Pasok regime. The Socialists' rallying cry is for a massive vote to block a right-wing comeback.

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The survey, conducted by the Vilstrup Institute, predicted a doubling of Conservative seats in Strasbourg from two to four.

seven of Denmark's 16 seats in Strasbourg, after securing 43 per cent of the vote compared to 36 per cent in 1979.

Mr Averoff: New Democracy leader

Court of Appeal

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the respondent boroughs had challenged the court's jurisdiction to grant the declaration. The word "jurisdiction" was used in two senses, as Lord Justice Diplock had observed in *Garthwaite v Garthwaite* ([1964] P 356,387): a narrow and strict sense, which connoted the

Further, the presence of section 31(4), which specified that damages could only be claimed on an application for judicial review as an adjunct to other relief; a similar provision could have been included with regard to declarations, but had not been.

The respondent, borough had cited *Law v National Greyhound*

London Council, *Ex parte Bromley London Borough Council* (The Times, March 27), and it could not deny the applicants their remedy by refusing to express a view as to whether payment would be lawful under the amended constitution. Bromley was a "proper contradiction" within Lord Dunedin's expression, and his Lordship had

the Protection from Eviction Act 1977, and allowing her appeal against conviction of unlawfully depriving Mr Nelson of his occupation of premises, contrary to section 1(2) of the Act.

Mr Geoffrey Stephenson, assigned by the Register of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant; Miss Jane Gill for the prosecutor.

When read in context, and in the light of the fact that the court was concerned in that case with the question whether section 30 of the 1965 Act was capable of giving rise

Their Lordships accepted the submission of counsel for the defendant that section 1(2) was framed at the concept of "eviction", although that word was not used in the description of the offence, and that an unlawful deprivation of occupation had to have the character of an eviction. Reference had been made to dicta

exclusion from premises for one day and night could not properly be regarded as a deprivation of occupation within the meaning of section 1(2). The jury had been misdirected on that issue. The appeal would accordingly be allowed and the conviction under section 1(2) quashed.

Therefore not "otherwise than as provided for in these rules." Thus, his Lordship's judgment, clause 3 of the bills of lading was a valid exclusive jurisdiction clause.

Lord Justice Dunn delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Dillon agreed.

Solicitors: Richards Butler & Co

Regina v Yuthiwattana

September 24, 1982, of harassment of a residential occupier, Mr Martin Nelson, contrary to section 1(3) of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977, and allowing her appeal against conviction of unlawfully depriving Mr Nelson of his occupation of premises, contrary to section 1(2) of the Act.

identical offence then contained in section 30(2) of the Rent Act 1965, he said: "All such acts must . . . give rise either to a remedy in trespass or for breach of contract or for breach of the covenant of quiet enjoyment".

Their Lordships accepted the submission of counsel for the defendant that section 1(2) was directed at the concept of "eviction", although that word was not used in the description of the

The present case clearly fell into the latter category. The mere exclusion from premises for one day and night could not properly be regarded as a deprivation of occupation within the meaning of section 1(2). The jury had been misdirected on that issue. The appeal was allowed.

the liability of the chambers, it did
by virtue of being preserved by
Article VIII of the rules, and
therefore not "otherwise than is
provided for in these rules." Thus,
his Lordship's judgment, clause
3 of the bills of lading was a valid
exclusive jurisdiction clause.

Lord Justice Duan delivered a

Solicitors: Richards Butler & Co.

THE ARTS

Television

Tall one for the road

Central's Pull the Other One, which began last night, is said to be a "gentle comedy series". On the strength of the first episode this is not a claim that can be an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act.

It rests mainly on the shoulders of Michael Elphick, as Sidney Mundy, which are broad but not necessarily therefore capable of bearing any burden. One would hope that Michael Elphick's subsequent scripts will lighten the load.

The format is that of the flashback. Mr Elphick tells his latest tall tale in the pub and it is then acted out. The plot of the first, concerning the Mundy family holiday, suggests that the tales will be very tall indeed.

Parents, young son and daughter, and Sidney's mother-in-law, with whom he enjoys the traditional contempt-based relationship, set out on a wet night in the family car, where much of the filming took place. Grandma appears to expire, not mutterably depressing Sidney who sticks her on the roof rack and takes the family for help. The car, as you might guess, is stolen, and the fantasy proceeds from there.

Mr Elphick did his best, which is good enough to enlist one's sympathy without compensating entirely for the plot's limitations. Susan Tracy, as his wife, was appropriately supportive and Lila Kaye gave a familiar portrait of that British dreadnought, the mother-in-law. I suspect that viewers are not going to run the risk of face ache, but it might be worth a second chance.

Dennis Hackett

Radio

Seeds of doubt

What are we doing, what is the effect - and what sort of an effect - if we prevent conception or encourage it, abort a foetus, induce a birth? At the other end of life, what if we withhold treatment or prolong it past the point at which the poor ailing body would be glad to give up? Aspects of the first of these areas of uncertainty preoccupied By Whom Beget? (Radio 3, June, producer, Anthony Mowbray).

Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, Professor John Ashworth, biologist and vice-chancellor of Salford University and eminent international lawyer, Paul Sieghart, discussed some of the moral dilemmas presented to us by our now formidable ability to tinker with procreation - to artificially inseminate, to generate an embryo outside the body and implant or even freeze it, to bring about the most spectacular fertility.

To some extent where you find a moral dilemma, there you will also find a little well of human ignorance. When does an embryo become a human being? Your convinced Catholic will insist, as a matter of belief, that it is at the moment of conception; others, according to persuasion, retreat from that relatively precise point to one on a progression that ends in, though not usually beyond, the mists of "viability of foetus", wherever that may be. But no one really knows how to answer the question. Someone from this programme suggested that increased scientific understanding of the embryo may help us to do so. But will it? I doubt if this is a problem with a scientific answer.

On the other hand, science can have a lot to say about surrogate motherhood, where another woman undergoes artificial insemination or womb-leasing, where she accepts an implanted embryo no part of which is hers. For instance, in the light of recent studies, will we find it advisable to bring children into the world by a means which must almost certainly deprive them of breast-feeding? Unless of course the wet-nurse makes an altogether unexpected come-back.

David Zane Mairowitz, author of the latest Monday

David Wade

Sheridan Morley meets Rex Harrison, in London for an unusual revival

Full circle for a king of comedy

Rex Harrison's arrival at the Theatre Royal Haymarket next Wednesday in the first major revival for 30 years of Lonsdale's *Aren't We All?* ought to be a cause for considerable celebration. In the first place, here we have the master light comedian of his generation, actually playing a light comedy in London for the first time in three decades. Thanks to Harrison's casting we also get our first look on the London stage at Claudette Colbert since 1928, and the chance to reconsider the strangely lost playwright career of Frederick Lonsdale.

Aren't We All? (bloody fools is the rest of that question, by the way) was the play that made Lonsdale's name legitimate in 1923, although he'd already written the bolts for such epic musicals as *Maid of the Mountains*, *The Balkan Princess* and *The King of Cadonia* which last, said one critic, he'd always enjoyed ever since it was called *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

But *Aren't We All?* fits no convenient theory of 1920s social comedy, and critics who've tried to find it one might like to note that there's a very simple reason. On the first night of its last Haymarket revival in 1953, Guy Bolton happened to remark that he'd always much enjoyed the play. Ever since 1923? No, said Bolton, ever since 1908. That was when Lonsdale had first written and indeed staged it, as *The Best People*.

On its last outing in the 1950s press opinion was sharply divided, with Kenneth Tynan for the *Evening Standard* leading a predictable onslaught.

For Rex Harrison a wheel has come full circle. When he set out from Hynton in Lancashire 60 years ago this summer to join the Liverpool Rep as Reginald Carey Harrison, his stage heroes were not the Shakespearians but the great Lonsdale light comedians.

Ronnie Squire, Charles Hawtrey, Gerald de Maunier, the men who made it all seem so easy, they made you believe they had just popped into the theatre for a spot of acting on the way to the club. Now that I come to do one of Ronnie's great roles, I realize how right I was to admire him. Lonsdale is not easy to play; I'd rather have Bernard Shaw any day. Shaw worked for his actors: Lonsdale made them work for him. He gives you practically nothing: he wrote in a weird style all his own. I never did a play of his before, but I did know him slightly when I first went out to Hollywood after the war. He

hated it there, said there was no conversation and left. He was probably right. Curious, sardonic man, very popular with the local gentry and a wonderful house-guest, which was just as well as he never had any money. When H. G. Wells, Freddy would drop round to make the process more enjoyable.

Because he has never been a classical actor in the narrow sense of that word, because he has never done his time at Stratford or the National Theatre, Harrison has curiously often been denied the honours that have gone to his contemporaries from Gielgud to Guinness.

The fact that from an early film of *Major Barbara* through the years of *My Fair Lady* to the more recent and in this country shamefully underrated *Heartbreak House* he has established himself as the greatest Shavian of his age (an achievement Shaw himself characteristically recognized before many others), the fact that his other work has centred around two of the most difficult verse dramatists of recent times (Eliot and Fry) and that he went straight from *Dryden Lane* and *My Fair Lady* to a long and difficult season at the Royal Court with Devine, all tend to give the lie to the notion that we are dealing here with little more than an elegant reminder of the days when actors were required to shoot cuffs rather than guns.

Like Coward (of whom he was also in his time an expert performer, as any look at the film of *Blithe Spirit* might indicate), Harrison's timing has always been his strongest suit, apart of course from the suit itself: nobody onstage or off has done more to keep the art of great tailoring alive and well-cut. A few years ago, to mark his half-century on the stage (he is 76 this year) he published an autobiography called *Simply Rex*.

It was, like the man himself, crisp and elegant and a little chilly, but it traced one of the most remarkable careers of all contemporary actors, a career built on the foundations of charm and style laid down by Hawtrey and du Maurier, but then growing into the bearded apocalyptic majesty of *Shogun*. "If you weren't the best light comedian in the country," Coward once told Harrison, "all you'd be fit for would be the selling of cars in Great Portland Street."

In fact, of course, he'd proved fit for a good deal more than that: although the

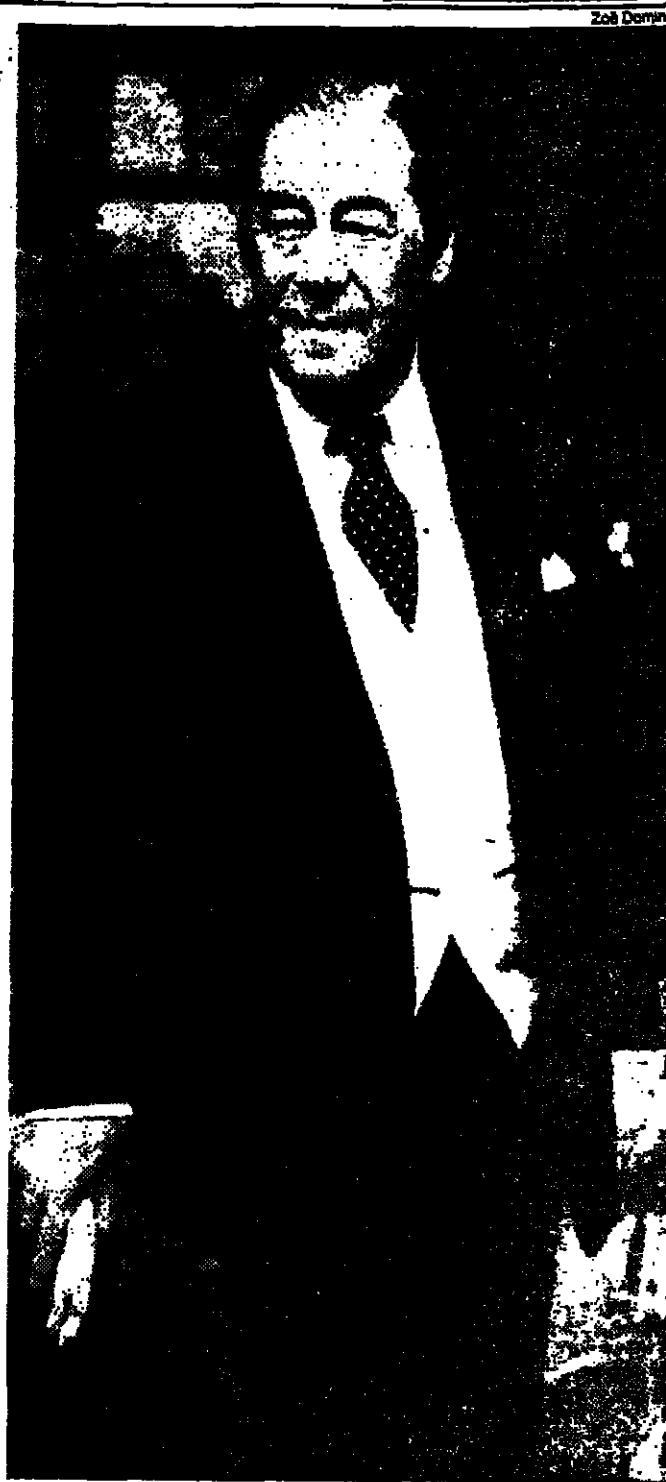
public image is now faintly reminiscent of exiled royalty, with apartments in Monaco and New York and a deep devotion to painting which may, he now threatens, take him away from the theatre altogether, Harrison remains one of the great personal and professional survivors of our times.

Thus far he's survived five marriages, a Hollywood scandal of the 1940s which would have been the end of many less sturdy careers, and the death a decade later of his beloved Kay Kendall. Like many of the Hollywood Raj, that colony of British actors, who went out to California much as their fathers and grandfathers had gone out to India and Africa, Harrison traded in the stiff upper lip and the stiff upper back. But he was a better and funnier actor than many of his contemporaries, and his career has been a conjuring trick of dazzling enterprise.

"I was a seedy child, good at nothing except a bit of cricket. Like Lonsdale I had no real education, largely because I wasn't capable of taking one in. But I've always looked for trials of strength: when I started there was no National, no RSC and the family couldn't afford a drama school. So I learnt in local reps how to stop people coughing on damp Wednesday afternoons. That doesn't mean I don't have any energy: because I don't rant and rave around the stage people think it's just me drifting around and not really working at it."

"The problem now is not that the plays have changed, but that the audiences have. When *Aren't We All?* first opened, people who'd liked it used to drop in again on the way home from the club just to see the last act, which for once Freddy had got right. I don't see that happening much now, and I'm no longer a part of that world. Shaw and Pirandello take you about as far away from cigarette-holders as you're likely to get, and I find it very hard now to pretend that I'm not really acting, which is the secret of Lonsdale."

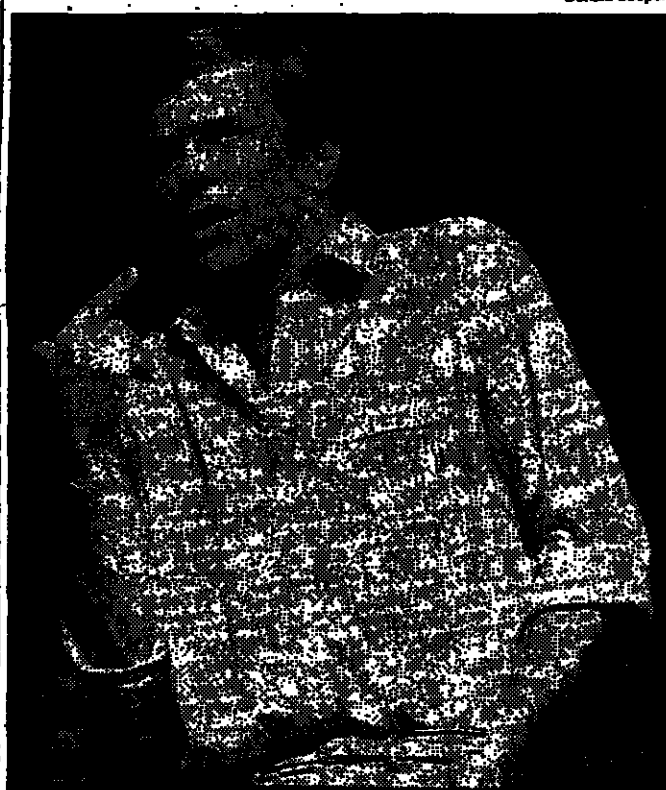
"It's wonderful to be with Claudette: when I first saw her on the stage in 1928 here in a play called *The Barker* I thought she was ravishing, and I still do. I toured *The Kingfisher* around America with her a couple of years ago and that seemed to work, so I thought in her eightieth year it was about time the English got another look at her. There aren't many people like that about today, you know, willing to do eight shows a week at the Newmarket for not a lot of money. I think maybe I'll stop soon."



Rex Harrison as Lord Grenham

Theatre

Donald Cooper



Nicky Henson as Callimaco: obsessive manoeuvres

A loutish prince

Mandragola
Olivier

The best known property of the mandrake root is the shriek it is supposed to emit when dug up. This old wife's tale is now confirmed by the anguished sounds proceeding from this updated, disorienting of Machiavelli's comedy.

Mandragola, claimed as the first great comedy in the Italian language, is a cold-blooded exercise in sexual politics, unswervingly in character with the author of *The Prince*. The situation is laid out in strictly military terms: on one side an impregnable citadel in the shape of a virtuous wife (Lucrezia); on the other a besieging army in the person of her obsessively lusty admirer (Callimaco).

Abetting him is a Machiavellian adviser (Ligurio) who studies the enemy's defences and isolates a weak point. Lucrezia is childless and thus vulnerable to medical intrigue. In a flash, Callimaco is transformed into a doctor room-mending a mandrake notion, and is then thrust into her bed to draw off the "poison".

The piece is new to me, but I can imagine that it could function very efficiently as a hard-edged, merciless comic machine. In David Gilmore's production it emerges as a piece of vertical tourism, spreading itself over Florentine street scenes and pausing for extended musical digressions from Howard Goodall (including an opening number from a singing hoteler).

The sad thing is that this leaden spectacle includes a good deal of fresh invention which, with better timing, could have been released into comic life. Nicky Henson, robed with full medical dignity in rubber gloves and head-mirror, descends to pull the wool over his victims' eyes, and explodes into torrents of Latin thanks to his

accomplice's dexterity with a hand-held autoclave. The night of passion moves Mr Goodall to a rock *Liebestod* while the baroque fountain erupts into a multiple orgasm under every colour in the rainbow. Best of all, the night of the street masquerade prompts a combination of modern and period costume, involving hitch-hikers and waiters with the flapping, beak-masked grotesques of Machiavelli's Florence, and brings on Lucrezia's cuckolded husband (Nicola) to dig deep into his cod-piece for a cigarette.

None of these effects raises much of a laugh; and when you are left alone with the unadorned rapacious of Wallace Shaw's translation, time hangs heavy. Mr Goodall's pounding score is a big disappointment after his fine debut (also in partnership with Mr Gilmore) in Southampton's *The Hired Man*. And his lyrics ("This man is a jerk. This man is a jerk.") translate the play's ruthlessness into sheer loutishness.

The principal casting is weak. Mr Henson certainly puts Callimaco into phallic overdrive, but makes little of the medical masquerade. John Savident, rashly cast against type as the complaisant husband, presents a consistently implausible image of beaming gullibility, even donning a pinnny to sweep the steps (a likely act from the Florentine lawyer).

Most bewildering among the night's disappointments is Jim Norton as the corrupt priestly mastermind, Father Timoteo, whose lecherous confessions and venal sophistries are ironed out into the portrait of a mildly harmless little cleric. Only when Mr Norton gets into his mask do the Machiavellian sparks fly. Congratulations to Roger Glossop for an imposing Florentine facade.

Irving Wardle

Dance

Plausible portraits

The Soldier's Tale
Newcastle Playhouse

This week's series of joint performances by the English Dance Theatre and the Northern Sinfonia celebrates both the completion of the orchestra's silver jubilee, and the dance company's imminent transfer from a shared home at Darlington Arts Centre to a new dance centre, specially provided by Newcastle City Council.

Bringing the two organizations together (an enlightened act of sponsorship by Tyne Tees Television and Northern Arts) shows the English Dance Theatre's regular works to best advantage with fine accompaniment, besides enabling the presentation of *The Soldier's Tale*, an attractive although elusive early example of modern music theatre. Stravinsky's music, always the prime element, is given sinew and persuasiveness under Alan Pearson's directions.

Yair Vardi's production rightly goes for the quasi-improvised effect that best suits the accompanying mixture of acting, dancing and recitation. Liam Halligan's soft Irish inflections give the soldier an appealingly robust innocence. Nicholas Burge is a spy, insinuating devil - more an imp of Satan than Old Nick himself, but a dab hand with a butterfly net for catching fiddles and a white bicycle for his magic carriage.

The princess's dance perhaps shows her too quickly cheerful,

but Julie Hood makes her wheedling of the soldier all too plausibly persuasive. She, equally with the Sinfonia, is the star of the evening, with prominent roles in both the other works given. Vardi's *Soldier* uses all five of his dancers in well-crafted patterns, commendably combining influences from Martha Graham and Paul Taylor in their lyrical moods, to movements from Handel's Concerti grossi, Op 3.

Peter Darrell's *A Murder Story*, set to the aptly agitated emotional tones of Martin's Third Piano Trio, uses a wartime background (nice period detail in Robert Jones's minimal but efficient designs) for the domestic tragedy of a wife who takes her husband's and her own infidelities more seriously than the other parties do. Murder, in this context, equals being driven to suicide.

Gary Nichols as the brycreamed husband in khaki, Stella Mae as his complaisant sycophant on the side and Nicholas Burge as the civilian friend taking advantage of the situation all contribute neat dance portraits. But it is Julie Hood, small, vulnerable and eager, who gives the ballet its depth and makes even the melodramatic end convincing.

John Percival

● *A Little Hotel on the Side*, a translation by John Mortimer of *L'Hotel du libre echange* by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallieres, opens at the Olivier Theatre on August 9 (with previews from August 3).

Concerts

RPO/Temirkanov
Festival Hall

It is curious that both Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony* and the *Faustique*, his finest achievements in the genre, are both really symphonic poems, the former concerning itself with things external to the composer, the latter very much a piece about himself.

Perhaps because of its egocentricity, the *Faustique* is liable to be ruined by those conductors who are tempted to suffocate it with a surfeit of idealized sentiment. Yuri Temirkanov is not such a person, and his reading with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, though perhaps not technically refined to the ultimate degree, sounded sincere rather than saccharine.

A measure of darkness was present throughout, even in the strange, nostalgic waltz, while the succeeding march showed Temirkanov able to whip the music up into a frenzied, unreal euphoria (with, I might add, blithe disregard for consistency of tempo) but still somehow managing to avoid playing to

the gallery. Such an attitude left us well prepared for the final Adagio lamentoso, which for once really felt like the utterance of a suicidally desperate man.

Appropriately the strings achieved their richest sounds here, while the woodwind consolidated the disciplined but fresh playing sustained earlier in the symphony. The overall balance was finely judged, but not at the expense of a sense of raw commitment.

As a foil to this the concert began with Mozart, and first of all with the overture *Die Zauberflöte*, performed with a full complement of strings. Temirkanov seemed to be on less secure territory here, especially with his curiously lumpy conception of the slow introduction. But in spite of the orchestra's unwieldy size the faster music was lightly sprung.

So too was Jean-Pierre Rampal's elegant playing of the G major Flute Concerto. Happily his charm is purely musical, and his quality of sound second to none, which suited Mozart perfectly, of course.

Stephen Pettitt

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
...but I suspect
the best company that
the world has ever seen

RSC BOOKING OPENS MONDAY

Royal Shakespeare Theatre
New production, previews from 9 August

HAMLET
Frances Barber Ophelia, Brian Blessed Claudius, Kenneth Branagh Laertes, Nicholas Farrell Horatio, Virginia McKenna Gertrude, Roger Rees Hamlet. Director Ron Daniels

New production, previews from 4 October

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST
Kenneth Branagh Novarre, Harold Innocent Boyal, Frank Middlemass Holofemes, Edward Petherbridge Don Armado, Roger Rees Berowne, Emily Richard Princess of France. Director Barry Kyle

New production, preview previewing

RICHARD III
Roger Alton Clarence, Brian Blessed Hastings, Penny Downie Lady Anne, Harold Innocent Edward IV, Patricia Routledge Margaret, Anthony Sher Richard III, Malcolm Sherry Buckingham, Frances Tomelty Elizabeth. Director Bill Alexander

Now in repertoire

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
A hugely enjoyable performance...
(Jan McElduff) a spectacular Shylock. Daily Telegraph
A faithful and rich production... Frances Tomelty (Portia) is a child of her time in a production (by John Caird) of this era. Don Mail

Now in repertoire

HENRY V
A truly magnificent production by Adrian Noble. Frances Tomelty: "What struck me about (Kenneth Branagh's performance) were his intelligence, gentleness and charm: no Henry has ever moved me so much." The Observer

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Robert Harman's New Play, from 23 October
The Desert Air by Nicholas Wright, from 27 November
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Punch, May 24

RSC Arts Council of Great Britain

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John Dighton's famous 40's farce. "Betting for St Swin's" and Hilary Hall: Marie Ahrns, Jane Barker, John Carter, Paul Greenwood, Peggy Mount, Richard O'Callaghan. Director Clifford Williams

RED STAR from 19 July
New comedy by Charles Wood with Richard Griffiths as Nikolai. Director John Caird

THE DEVILS from 17 August
by John Whiting with Peter McEnery as Grandier and Estelle Kohler as Sister Jeanne. Director John Barton

AND 3 TRANSFERS FROM STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

TWELFTH NIGHT Previews from 18 August
"A night to remember... thoroughly enjoyable" Guardian

HENRY VIII Previews from 6 September
Richard Griffiths' portrait of Henry is very effective. A most exciting revival! Plays & Payers

A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS from 5 September
by Philip Messenger
"Barry James carries off the part of Sir Giles Overreach with enormous panache" Times

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MEASURE FOR MEASURE
"Daniel Massey's spellbinding performance" Time Out
"Juliet Stevenson's Isabella... electrifying" Observer

VOLPONE by Ben Jonson
"Richard Griffiths' magnificent Volpone" Financial Times

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SPORTING DIARY

And here's the buzz

You need a pitch two miles in length, and a dead goat to play buzkashi. Electronic engineer turned farmer George Sassoon has both and is convinced he can establish the great Afghan horse game in Wiltshire by the autumn. Buzkashi is said to be akin to mounted rugby - but do not think for a moment that there are no rules. Firearms were banned some time in the 1970s. Knives are still permitted.

Sassoon decided to set up buzkashi in Wiltshire after he had seen local polo teams becoming increasingly basic in their approach. And buzkashi is a basic kind of game: between two sets of two miles apart, a dead goat is buried in the centre of a circle 10 yards across. The object is to rescue the goat, carry it round first one post and then the second, and finally to fling the carcass back into the circle. Sassoon expects to have 15 or so players ready for the game by the time summer is over. He thinks it is probably better not to play with knives. "We will play a gentlemanly British version", he said.

Quote of the week from an English county cricketer who had better remain anonymous, commenting on the number of South Africans who have represented England at cricket: "Getting like Glamorgan, isn't it? When the weak link in the side is the only Welshman."

Caught short

Middlesex were not expecting their wicketkeeper, Paul Downton, to win back his place in the England team. They have had to summon Colin Metson, their reserve, from Durham University to take over. Metson could be seen last week writing an essay on the players' balcony at Lord's. He has not been having a tranquil time of it: he had to go to hospital to have a finger X-rayed on Wednesday, and on Thursday got hit on the helmet by Sylvester Clarke when batting. Mike Gatting had a go with the gloves, reviving memories of 1976, when Middlesex used a total of six wicketkeepers in a season, one of them, in a dire emergency, Mike Brearley. They still won the championship that year.

Lady's day

There have been a few pretenders to the title of the first woman scorer for a match at Lord's. One was a woman who scored for Longparish in the village final a couple of years back, but her record was topped by a scorer for the Lord's Taverners in 1960. The true first is Corporal Fay Speed who scored in the match between a Sandhurst and a Lord's XI on June 14, 1944. The corporal, now Mrs Fay Ashmore, was presented with a replica scorecard of that match to mark the fortieth anniversary of the occasion last week.

In full swing

Hemley regatta and its Charley's Aunt charm has never been such a big box office. With three weeks to go all the Saturday badges for the Stewards' enclosure, carefully limited to 7,000, have already been snapped up. Everything pre-sellable has been going faster than ever: car park spaces, lunch and tea tickets, grandstand places, and guest badges for all days. The only way actually to join the Stewards' Enclosure, the holy of holies, is to wait for people to die. If you actually lived in the regatta, you might be lucky enough to make it in three years or so. It takes longer for the less suitable, and "we don't anticipate any mass resignations", the regatta secretary said.

Steve Nasty Anderson will captain the United States professional martial arts team which competes at Epsom race meeting. That is, quite truthfully, his real name.

Drug runner

In a year when American-bred horses took first and second places in the Derby at Epsom, American racing threw up a baffling result: Gate Dancer's victory in the second leg of the American triple crown, the Preakness Stakes. The horse was pumped full of a stimulant called Lexin, legal in Maryland, but banned throughout Europe, and also in New York state, where the third leg of the triple crown, the Belmont, is run. And in that race, last Saturday, Gate Dancer was unplaced.

Short delivery

The truly Irish method of settling rain-soaked matches by having all 22 players bowl at unprotected stumps was in truth invented by the English. It has been used in the village cricket championship for a dozen years, and resorted to on more than 100 occasions. The most protected time was in 1979, when typical Scottish weather, sleet, thunder, frost and flood, forced the match to be called off. After each team had bowled their 11 balls, the score was 2-2. It was only after a third time, and a total of 66 balls, that wet and frozen Rossie Priory beat Fochabers 9-6. In another rain-soaked match, this time in Kent, the score was locked at 0-0 after 21 balls. The issue was decided by a wicket-keeper, who bowled, dropped the ball almost at his feet, and saw it trundle down the matting wicket on a zigzag course. It came to rest against leg stump - with just enough force to dislodge the bail. Finley Res, director of competitions at The Cricketers' Association, revealed the secret of success: stand still and bowl a full toss.

Simon Barnes

Hayek, professor of the truth

Roger Scruton reflects on the influence of Mrs Thatcher's philosophical mentor, who is today created a Companion of Honour

have consistently refused to see that they are criticized precisely for their belief that social problems might be solved by a rational plan.

Hayek inherited his first argument from the man who had taught him at the University of Vienna - Ludwig von Mises. Mises claimed that the socialist attempt to achieve a rational allocation of resources inevitably brings about the destruction of the price mechanism, and with it, of the knowledge required for economic decisions. Hayek went further, arguing that the information contained in the price mechanism cannot be collected by any central agency, not because it is too complex, but because it resists translation into a plan.

Economic knowledge is given to us only in use, displayed and preserved in countless daily transactions. Unpublished markets transmit this knowledge, which is otherwise irretrievably dispersed. For, being at once practical and social, economic knowledge is the property only of society as a whole, and is no more capable of existing as a plan than is the knowledge how to play a good game of football.

Hayek's development of this argument is remarkable in two ways. First, he defends the market economy, not as a realization of human freedom (though it is that),

but as the true source of necessary information. The incompetence of socialism is "epistemological". Socialism deprives us of the very knowledge which its projects require. By being "rational", it ceases to be reasonable. Second, Hayek extends the argument far beyond the economic sphere, to produce a theory of "spontaneous order", recreating in modern form, Burke's defence of "prejudice" against the enlightened rationalism of the French revolutionaries.

Thus, just as the rational plan is incompetent to deal with the minute problems of economic distribution, so too, Hayek argues, is statutory legislation incompetent to resolve the constantly evolving conflicts between individuals.

Of course, a modern state needs central legislation, just as it needs an economic policy. But Hayek argues, the purpose of centralized devices is to recreate, in unpropitious conditions, the "spontaneous order" of peaceful coexistence, and the knowledge of ourselves and of each other which that order contains. The purpose, in other words, is to redress the balance against Reason in favour of reasonableness.

Hayek's second major argument concerns not the aims of socialism, but its methods, and in particular its attempt to beg all questions by the manipulation of language. In de-

fending the market economy Hayek uses terms which do not feature in socialist polemic. The socialist speaks of "capitalism", and re-describes the world in terms of a universal opposition between capitalism and socialism - as though all human life were determined by the "ownership" of the means of production, and as though political institutions had no reality except as the extension of economic control. Such language reinforces the foreign conclusion, and prevents discussion of the real choices which lie before us.

In a similar way, Hayek argues, the socialist has misinterpreted the major problems of moral and political thinking by the use of devices which, whether or not dishonest in intention, are systematically mendacious in their effect. Instead of freedom, socialism offers "economic freedom", instead of democracy "people's democracy", instead of justice "social justice", and instead of "peace", the "peace with socialism" of Leninist propaganda. At every point of disagreement, the socialist appropriates the question. The first task of his opponent is therefore the redemption of language, and its restoration to its rightful place as the vehicle of truth.

Hayek's arguments are at every point contestable. But his devotion to that task, and the insight with which he has placed it before us, have justified his reputation as one of the great political thinkers of our times.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

Bernard Levin prepares for his annual Schubert pilgrimage

Follow my lieder to Hohenems



Schubert: a challenge to all human endeavour

About this time every year I begin to hum more Schubert than usual; next year, I shall start much earlier. The reason is that the year is moving increasingly towards my annual visit to Hohenems, where for some 12 days or so Schubert may be drunk in with breakfast, dinner and tea; particularly tea, as you shall hear. You shall also hear why 1985 will be specially memorable.

The village of Hohenems (432 metres above sea-level, population 13,000, area 2,918 hectares, railway station and bus stop, public swimming pool and tennis court, garage, shop, Post Office hours 8-12 am, 2-5 pm, Monday to Friday) has very little claim on the attention of history. It has a handsome sixteenth-century palace which has seen better days (I had a guided tour of it not long ago, and in parts of the upper storeys I picked my way across floorboards that provoked an uneasy feeling that I might at any moment find myself on the ground floor without benefit of staircase), which was built by the brother of Maria Sittich, Count-Bishop of Salzburg, and in which an early manuscript of the *Nibelungenlied* was discovered, but at that point Hohenems skips several centuries and arrives at 1976, when Hermann Prey, the German baritone, founded a music festival there, dedicated entirely to the work of Schubert: so entirely, indeed, that it is not called a Festival at all, but a Schubertiade.

I wrote about the Schubertiade in this space a few years ago. For that matter, I have since written about it in the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*. I have devoted a chapter of a book to it, and I have broadcast about it on Radio 3. This year's visit will be my seventh consecutive one; the first time I went, in 1978, was the third year of its existence, so it follows that next year the Schubertiade will mark the end of its first decade, and will do so, as I have hinted, in a particularly notable manner.

The phenomenon of Schubert is not only one of the most astonishing in the history of music; it challenges comparison with anything in any field of human endeavour. Certainly, among musicians only Mozart takes the breath away more completely. His entry in the fifth edition of Grove begins with an admirably robust warning against following those biographers and analysts who have tried to trace the springs of Schubert's genius to his Viennese birth and life: "... no amount of Viennese lore will help us when we approach such work as, for instance, the first movement of the string quartet in G major".

True, but then nothing else will help us either. Indeed, nothing much will help us when we approach the 21 pages of the catalogue of his works (only Mozart's exceeds it, and Bach's is not much more than half its length), particularly when we contemplate the fact that although Schubert was exceptionally precocious, he was not a child prodigy like Mozart, and virtually the whole of his stupendous oeuvre was crammed into the last 15 of his 31 years.

That catalogue will bear a moment's study. It lists operas, incidental music for plays, Masses and other liturgical music, secular cantatas and some three score miscellaneous choral items, symphonies and other orchestral works, a wagon-load of chamber music, including at least a dozen of the greatest compositions ever written in this genre, violin sonatas, piano sonatas and a vast quantity of other solo keyboard works (the catalogue devotes records "42 Minuettes", "71 Ländler" and "66 Ecossaises") plus 50 or so for piano duet; and songs.

Songs: quite so. There are some 600 of them; no one knows how many more he wrote which are lost. And no one else before or since has got anywhere near the breadth or depth of Schubert's combination of

the human voice and a piano; if the symphonies, the sonatas, even the chamber music, had all vanished, leaving us with nothing but his songs, we would know beyond doubt that this was one of the most profound spirits the world has ever seen.

It is not surprising that the Hohenems Schubertiade is always built round the songs. This year's, for instance, includes nine song-recitals (though for the first time some of the programmes include associated items by other composers) as against four chamber-concerts, three piano recitals and two orchestral concerts; one of the evenings of song is a performance of the *Winterreise* by Fischer-Dieskau accompanied by Brendel, and another is by Peter Schreier if he turns up, which he usually doesn't. (Though when he does, he convinces me every time that he is the most male *Lieder* singer in the world.)

Occasionally, though not this year, there is a full-sized choral or orchestral concert which necessitates a shift to the church that stands beside the palace, occasionally (as with the Fischer-Dieskau and Brendel evening) we decamp en masse to Bregenz, where there is a bigger, modern concert-hall. But otherwise all the performances are

given either in the palace courtyard, which holds only 550 people, or in the Rittersaal upstairs, which holds 300. That is the clue to the festival's designation as a Schubertiade, for that is what the intimate drawing-room concerts of his music that were given and attended by his friends used to be called in his lifetime; the Rittersaal, for all its imposing name and handsomely decorated ceiling, really is a drawing-room, and every night our host and hostess, the present owners of the palace, take their place in it to hear the more gifted of their friends play and sing the music of Schubert to those of their friends whose gift is only for listening to it.

Just across the road from the palace is the Schloss Café; it serves the most appallingly delicious gâteau, accompanied by unapologetically irresistible piles of whipped cream (the waitresses normally ask if the customer wants *Schlagsahne*, but they have long since given up asking me); the only safeguard is that there is not quite time in the intervals to down yet another slice.

The hills and woods and fields of the area are beautiful and unspoilt; it is perfect walking-country, though the walker who comes out in brilliant sunshine can find himself returning in a monsoon. But rain or shine, at least once a day and often twice, the visitors to the Hohenems Schubertiade can drink at the astounding and inexhaustible spring that, for the brief moment that it flowed on earth, was called Franz Schubert. I know of nothing else in this world, and can barely guess at anything there might be in the next, that provides such balm for the spirit, such heart-peace, such reinforcement for the eternal truth which sustained him through poverty, illness and the brevity of his life, the truth which states, as every bar of his music does, that nothing bad matters and everything good does.

And now for the best news. Last year, I was talking to the director of the Schubertiade, Herr Gerd Nachbauer, and he asked me if there was any artist who had not so far performed at Hohenems whom I thought would be suitable and whom I would like to hear there. There is only one who fills all those specifications, and I gave him his name. A conspiratorial smile spread over his face, as he told me that the he was booked to sing there in 1985. So if the world has not come to an end before the end of the year, and sometime in the second half of June hear Janet Baker sing Schubert for an entire evening. If the world comes to an end the following morning, I shall be in no position to complain.

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Pretoria: open hand in the Swazi turmoil

Johannesburg, Swaziland, a former British protectorate and one of Africa's few remaining traditional kingdoms, is in the throes of the latest round of the intense power struggle which has racked the tiny country - a population of 600,000 in a landlocked, hilly enclave about the size of Wales - ever since the venerable King Sobhuza II died just under two years ago, leaving no clearly designated successor.

This time, however, the in-fighting is mixed up with allegations of a multi-million-pound fraud involving the non-payment of customs duties, and South Africa, Swaziland's giant white-ruled neighbour, appears to have come out publicly in support of one of the feuding parties. Dr. Shikany Ntsumalo, the ousted finance minister who now stands accused of high treason.

The crisis broke earlier this month when the prime minister, Prince Bhekimphe Dlamini-Dlamini is the clan name of the far-flung royal family - called a press conference and dramatically announced the dismissal of Dr Ntsumalo, Mr Richard Dlamini, the foreign minister, Colonel Mangweni Mzimandza, the chief of the army, and Mr Titus Msihi, the police commissioner.

Dr Ntsumalo claimed that he had been sacked because senior figures in the Ligoqo, a supreme council of tribal elders which effectively runs

the country, were threatened by an inquiry he had launched into the alleged fraud. Pretoria then weighed in, expressing "deep concern" at the dismissals and warning that, if the inquiry was not pursued, it might have to withdraw from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), to which Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho also belong.

The sharpness of the South African reaction seemed to take the Ligoqo by surprise, and it took a day or two to answer Dr Ntsumalo's allegations. It then accused him of being the ringleader of a plot to force the queen-regent, Queen Ntombi, "to surrender power or face a bloody revolution", and claimed that an attempt by the plotters to seize the keys of the royal armory had been foiled at the last minute.

It has not gone unnoticed that the "Gang of Four", as the plotters have been dubbed, are strong supporters of rapprochement with South Africa and the ousted army and police chiefs played a key role in the recent crackdown on the guerrilla presence in Swaziland of the underground African National Congress (ANC), the most militant black nationalist organisation in South Africa.

But Swaziland does not defy conventional political analysis, and there is no real evidence that any of the feuding groups within the Swazi elite disagree about the need for close cooperation with South Africa. Equally tenuous is the thesis,

advanced by some, that the in-fighting reflects a struggle between traditionalists and modernists, rather than a straightforward contest for the inheritance of the late king.

The situation does, however, offer ample opportunity for South African mischief-making, and the temptation must be growing for Pretoria, using the argument that the instability in Swaziland poses a threat to its own security, to intervene even more openly in the kingdom's affairs than it has in the past, the South Africans would certainly be sorry to see Dr Ntsumalo disappear into limbo.

A former Johannesburg mine worker, educationalist and cabinet minister for 10 years, Dr Ntsumalo was a close adviser of the late king and was for a time chairman of the Tlityo Taka Ngwane, a special institution set up to handle the country's mineral royalties, which are held by the monarch "in trust for the Swazi nation". He is not a figure to be trifled with.

Dr Ntsumalo also acted as the king's special envoy two years ago in negotiations with South Africa on a plan to cede large chunks of South African Swazi and Zulu tribal territory to Swaziland, in exchange for the latter agreeing to accept citizenship of some 800,000 South African Swazis. Coincidentally, there has been speculation recently that Pretoria is about to revive this

scheme, which had to be shelved because of internal opposition.

When he died - at 83 after ruling for 61 years - King Sobhuza left his country hopelessly ill-equipped constitutionally to handle the demands of the last quarter of the twentieth century, including a hugely powerful white-ruled neighbour, a strategic position as a base for black nationalist guerrillas and a declining economy, which is now unhealthily dependent on sugar.

There is no rule of primogeniture, and after the king's death one of his many widows, Queen Dlamini, nominated by the monarch himself, became queen-regent, or Ndlovu-lazi (Latin: Queen Regent). She, however, fell out with Ligoqo over the interpretation of her role, and was unconstitutionally replaced last August by another of the late king's wives, the more pliant Queen Ntombi, who seems to be little more than a figurehead.

A teenage prince, now at Sherborne school in Dorset, has been chosen by secret tribal process to be the next king, but will not ascend the throne until he is 21 in six years time. The regency - it is customary for heirs to the throne to serve a period of apprenticeship as minors - has always been a dangerous period in Swazi history, and the possibility of attempts on the life of the Swazi prince are taken seriously in Britain and Swaziland.

Michael Hornsby

James Lunt

Sikhs: has Gandhi gone too far?

In ordering the army to storm the Golden Temple, Mrs Gandhi displayed even more courage than Mrs Thatcher when she sent the fleet to the Falklands. Whatever the provocation, any desecration of their holiest of holies was certain to bring a storm of protest from Sikhs everywhere.

Not least from the army, which since British times has contained a large proportion of Sikhs, many holding senior rank. Ever since independence the Indian Army has been scrupulously careful to stay outside politics, modelling itself on the British Army in this respect: even after the disastrous war with China in 1962, or during Mrs Gandhi's "emergency" from 1975-77, the army remained in its barracks. This is of course a conscious decision on the part of its officers.

Nothing, however, is more likely to close Sikh ranks than recent events. The Sikhs have always tended to feud among themselves, striving to become top dogs. It was this as much as anything that led to their two wars with the East India Company after the death of Maharajah Ranjit Singh in 1839. They proved themselves stout adversaries, not least in their handling of artillery.

Not long afterwards the Sikhs rallied to the British side to help to put down the Bengal native army mutiny; even today, 127 years later, among the 71 battle honours on the Sikh Regiment's Colours are those awarded for the Defence of Arrah 1857, Behar 1857 and Lucknow 1857-58.

New Delhi's "smart set" often like to laugh at the "Sardars-Ji", as Sikhs are politely addressed, claiming they are an obstinate and stupid race, prone to water buffaloes. But the fact remains that for their numbers the Sikhs wield great influence throughout India. Having a natural aptitude for things mechanical, they control much of India's transport, including Calcutta's taxis. No one who has been driven in Calcutta by a Sikh is ever likely to forget the experience.

Sikhs are to be found in large numbers throughout India's armed forces, particularly in the army, and in all arms of that service. The Sikh Regiment has expanded from seven battalions in British times to 19 battalions today. It is one of the few remaining "one-class" regiments, although its officers come from all over India. There have been frequent attempts to make the regiment a "mixed" one, like most other Indian units, but this has so far been successfully resisted by the Sikh lobby, as much within the army as outside it.

Sikhs make fine soldiers. Khushwant Singh, their leading publicist, claims they are India's best, as well as being the best farmers and sportsmen. They are also, he says, much the most enterprising, having established prosperous communities all over the world, principally in the US, Canada and Britain. Indeed,

there must be almost as many Sikhs in South Asia as there are in Ladonia. "Jat" Sikhs, the agriculturalists, are fine-looking men and women. Although Sikhism is an offshoot of Hinduism, Sikhs believe in one god and the eastern brotherhood of man. Nevertheless they have not entirely succeeded in ridding themselves of caste, their own unouchables being called *mazhabis*. During the Second World War, the Sikh Light Infantry was raised to recruit Sikhs who would be unacceptable to the Sikh Regiment, which is composed only of "Jat" Sikhs.

It has been said that to get the best out of a Sikh soldier he has to be worked off his feet and subjected to extra tough discipline. They are much inclined to intrigue, as well as being politically conscious. They can also become violent and cruel, as they demonstrated during the horrors following partition. They do require firm handling, their martial virtues notwithstanding.

Whether Mrs Gandhi has handled the situation to best advantage remains to be seen. She has been accused of "playing politics", ending up by making a martyr of Jarnail Bhindranwale, whom most educated Sikhs regarded as a Hindu more than a religious fanatic. But this does not mean that they have lacked sympathy with the demand for a separate Sikh state: its boundaries extended to include not only Chandigarh but also more Punjabi-speaking areas. This has been the Sikh's ambition ever since independence. It is probably the cause of the Sikh's acute awareness of the danger of a separatist movement in India which has led her to resist demands, but in no doing so has come dangerously close to causing divisions within the army.

Their vigour and virility is not calculated to endear the Sikhs to every section of Indian opinion, their beards and turbans making them easy to identify. But not every Sikh goes unshaven. In the Indian Army, those who shave are *farshahs*: curious, mean, religious fanatics. The "unshaved Sikhs", Major-General M. S. Bha, who commanded the Amritsar operation, is one of them.

It may be significant that despite their high reputation as soldiers no Sikh officer has yet held the senior appointment in the Indian Army, that of Chief of the Army Staff, but it was Lt-Gen Harbakhsh Singh who successfully held the Punjab in the 1965 war with Pakistan, and Lt-Gen Jagjit Singh who conquered East Pakistan in 1972.

Some years ago I visited the scene of India's defeat by China, in the North-east frontier province. My guide, a Sikh officer, commented: "The responsibility for our defeat was not Nehru's. It was never understood the army. Let me have the lady (Mrs Gandhi) who have profited from her father's mistakes. Has she?"

Major-General Lunt was defence adviser to the British High Commission in Delhi, 1966-68.

Roy Strong

Paperbacks, but what a spine

The books that first stir the eye and the intellect are ones that remain through life peculiarly precious. *British Military Uniforms* by James Laver was given to me by a friend on my thirteenth birthday in 1948. It introduced me to the serious history of dress, of which the author was a pioneer, and it was my first King Penguin. Next year we celebrate the half-century of that publishing house, and what an enormous bouquet those of my generation owe to Allen Lane.

Everyone will have his own memories, his own debts to books. Mine centres very much on the King Penguin series, now collectors' items (we've nearly completed our set) but then, in the dark days of the war and its austerity aftermath, one of the only modestly priced art books with colour plates. What a debt one owes to Carl Winter's *Elizabethan Miniatures* which cost just three shillings. Published in 1943, its reproductions of portraits by Holbein, Hilliard and Oliver were poured over during my teens and became the source from which was to flow an obsession with the art of Shakespeare's England that has lasted 40 years.

Before Janet Leaper's *English Ballet*, with plates of designs by Rex Whistler, Nadia Benois and Leslie Hurry, had fed the imagination, and then there were ones like Pevsner's *The Leaves of Southwell* and M. D. Anderson's *Miserables* that awoke one's interest in English churches. As in the case of that other wartime series, *Britain in Pictures*, they were essentially insular in outlook and must have been seminal for a younger generation in kindling an interest in our own historic environment. Ironically the editor of the series was an exile, Nikolaus Pevsner, whose later work, *The Englishness of English Art*, and the great *Buildings of England* series seem such a natural outcome.

Penguins were also responsible for one's earliest awareness of contemporary art. The King Penguin on the *Romney Marsh*, illustrated and described by John Piper, resulted in a sustained period of Piper pastiche with crayon and watercolour in one's art class. More important was another series, Penguin Modern Painters, this time at three shillings and sixpence. Piper again, of course, but also Stanley Spencer, Duncan Grant, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Matthew Smith, Paul Nash, Sutherland and many more.

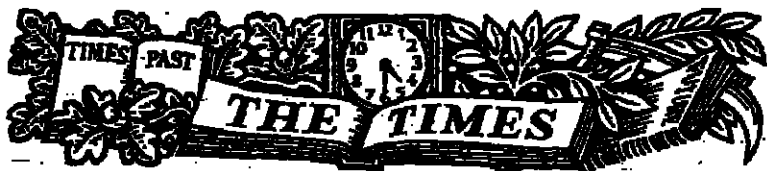
And what authors! Benjamin, Raymond Mortimer, Herbert Read, Clive Bell and Edward Sackville-West. There were few exhibitions then. The great art galleries were only just struggling to reopen so that these tiny books with their plates were one's taste gallery.

And when I went up to university to read history in 1953 once again a series, this time *The Pelican History of England*, thirty-one sets at the feet of S. T. Bindoff, author of the volume *Tudor England*, which had appeared only a year or two before. It is still in print. The book had flashes of magic that lit my imagination. Two lines stick in the mind. One in the epilogue, where he describes the end of Gloriana: "But life, that long-lasting fire before which she had warmed her splendid candle, was sinking and she made ready to die." The other was the opening phrase of the biography of the author on the back of the book: "S. T. Bindoff has enjoyed a career remarkable chiefly for its uneventfulness."

Not long after came a period of flat-sharing and the advent of cooking. Elizabeth David's *A Book of Modern Cookery* and *French Country Cooking*, two earliest purchases, are still in use, stained and spattered as the pages are by experiments. The former I made up at the time with a cross by every recipe I thought possible, although I never did essay *Fillet de Porc en Sanglier*. Classics as these are, how well they encapsulate an era when the middle classes had to learn to cook, and travel to the continent was possible again. The author's opening line to her 1953 preface says it all: "When almost every essential ingredient of good cooking was either rationed or unobtainable. Both, incidentally, were illustrated by John Minton, introducing one to a contemporary book illustration and reminding one also of the enormous contribution Penguin made in that field."

This is a personal anthology, it could be far longer both in terms of content and time span. But it is tribute to those who fed a young inquisitive mind and eye during a period of deprivation. They were the publishers who gave to those who, like myself, were able to go to the university as a result of the post-war Education Acts, the opportunity of forming a modest library. Need one say more?

Sir Roy Strong is Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1984



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THEY DO IT AGAIN

The candidates had something to do with it. Labour picked a CND supporter for a city that has known the Royal Navy longer than it has known the Tory Party. You might as well take someone from the Band of Hope to represent Burton-on-Trent. The Tories picked an incomer with the provenance of the Prime Minister's private office. A good recommendation when a candidate is running high in the party. Adulation is mixed at the moment. The SDP picked a good local government man, strong on conventional defences, responsible to matter-of-fact concerns about the jobs market, health care and public welfare. He got his reward, helped no doubt by the late candour about rate cutting from the unfortunate Mr Jenkins, who is going the way of Iain Macleod in the serpentine embrace of local government.

The tip-off to the Conservative majority at Portsmouth does not equal the magnitude of the Alliance gains at the Crosby and Croydon North West by-elections in the pre-Falklands winter of 1981. It is still a famous victory one year into the parliament and it comes at a time when the new political partnership has seemed to be flagging a bit in the estimation of the public.

Ms Thatcher prefers to conduct her politics as if the Alliance were not on the stage, a pretence facilitated by the com-

position and routine of the House of Commons. Now she finds the Alliance taking the curtain calls after the Portsmouth performance - though it remains a weakness that the SDP part of the duet, which came into being to effect a realignment of the left, has not, but for the very special case of Bermondsey, made serious inroads into the Labour vote where it matters most.

For Labour to have dropped votes (even if it put up its percentage slightly) in a contest where the voters turned away from the party of government in droves is a melancholy conclusion for Mr Kinnock. The impression it leaves may be partly erased when the European ballot boxes are opened, though that peculiar election is even less reliable than a single by-election as a pointer to party fortunes in a general election several years away. The Portsmouth result is however another scrap of evidence for the hypothesis that Labour's challenge is expended south of Severn-Trent, barring a few urban fortresses.

The Speaker of the House of Commons spoke at a luncheon this week about his first year in the chair. Though in jocular mood he was sharing serious reflections. He dubbed this parliament the Frustration Parliament. The frustration he described came in different forms to different parties, but all

was related to the excessively large Conservative majority in the House (of which Mr Pym warned in advance and was sacked).

The Portsmouth by-election underlines the point. The Conservative Party sits pretty with 61 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons while all it can muster is 35 per cent of the votes in plumb Tory territory which it has occupied throughout this century with a majority that had never previously fallen below 7,000. The message on the Government benches is compounded by the realization that the Cabinet has not, so far in this parliament, communicated the same clarity of objective as it did in the last, or caught (or defined) the mood of the nation in the same way.

But there is one consolation for the Government in the pattern of voting at Portsmouth. The strength of its position at the last general election and since has been that the organized political opposition to it divides into two not far from equal blocks. There were - still are - signs of a reversion to something like the customary two-and-a-quarter parties position, at which point a government that had lost its popularity in the second year of parliament would have cause to fear the future. Portsmouth suggests that the counter-Tory split remains, in terms of votes, pretty even.

THE ART OF TALKSMANSHIP

President Reagan's declaration that he is willing to meet the Soviet leaders without setting rigid preconditions was understandably interpreted by many as more relevant to the forthcoming elections than to reducing East-West tensions. Both sides have repeatedly emphasized that a summit would only have value if it were properly prepared in order to ensure tangible results - a factor apparently much more important to a participant who is subject to an electorate, than one who can expect to remain in office until removed through natural causes.

Yet it would be quite wrong to see Soviet foreign policy as somehow independent of domestic pressures and therefore less in need of improved relations with the West. Issues ranging from the Iran-Iraq war to the treatment of the Sakharovs have been the subject of "quiet diplomacy" as well as public rhetoric, and in other areas too, President Chernenko would find it impossible to cut all contact with the American administration, even if he does prefer to postpone a summit in the hope, however remote, that there may be a new president in the White House next year.

Where does Soviet foreign policy begin? Administering more than a hundred nationalities in the USSR is already a complex operation in international affairs. President Cher-

nenko has called again for capitalism and communism to live in "peaceful coexistence" but it was Lenin who first used this phrase in his relations with the independent Baltic states, now part of the USSR. Moscow's relations with Comecon members involve a similar blend of internal and external factors.

The West cannot solve Soviet problems by making concessions even if it wished to; the very existence of the "free world" is a threat to the Soviet system. Citizens defect when sent abroad to represent their country; young people who should be concentrating on building the communist future are more attracted by things Western; in an age of computerization Comecon products come a poor second in competition with capitalist industry - which means, of course, that matching US military technology will become increasingly difficult. But a Soviet leadership which feels isolated and driven into a corner, even as a result of their own policies, does not mean a safe world.

When President Chernenko spoke of the dangerous test of strength being imposed on the USSR "by the most reactionary imperialist circles, primarily in the United States" he was acknowledging not only his fears at some star scenario. He claimed that socialism could prove its advantages in peaceful

competition, but it has dismally failed to do so.

President Chernenko has not been prepared to relax the harsh repression which killed hopes that the Helsinki accords might bring a more humane regime. The West has lost many of its illusions with the invasion of Afghanistan, the destruction of the Korean airliner, the suppression of Solidarity in Poland, the persecution of Dr Sakharov and other advocates of more liberal policies at home and abroad.

Yet if détente is not an option in present circumstances, some form of dialogue must be sought at least to limit the appalling escalation of military expenditure on both sides. Washington no longer denounces the Kremlin as the "focus of evil". Moscow, however, continues to portray President Reagan as Hitler's direct successor. Approaches by the leaders present at the London summit to improve East-West relations were rejected, as were suggestions on eliminating terrorism and other areas of possible co-operation.

A senior Soviet commentator criticized an earlier offer of a summit, saying that it would mean "throwing a lifebelt to Reagan". But the US President does not appear in need of Soviet help in the elections and if Moscow does not respond positively to his latest initiative, he would still earn votes by being firm, yet open to dialogue.

SOMETHING NASTY IN THE VIDEO

The Third Reading of the Video Recording Bill, which was to have taken place in the House of Lords on Monday, has had to be put off, for a week because the Upper House failed this week to complete its Report stage as a result of that, in lay language, can only be described as a filibuster. Throughout its passage in the Lords, this Private Members Bill, which passed the House of Commons with all-party support, and with the backing of Home Office ministers, has been subjected to the delaying tactics of a handful of peers, conspicuously Lord Houghton, Lord Sowerby and Lord Jenkins of Putney, who have an emotional antipathy to the Bill on unconformable libertarian grounds and therefore find themselves arguing inconclusively and repeatedly against it, making many of the points advanced by the video trade, whose commercial interests are affected by the Bill.

The purpose of this resistance is clearly to have the Bill talked out of Parliament by preventing it from reaching the Commons in time for July 6, the appointed day for dealing with Lords' amendments to Private Members' bills. If that were to happen, a bizarre and highly unrepresentative group of peers, who can be numbered on the fingers of one hand, would have frustrated the wishes not only of the political consensus in the Commons but also of the wider public.

The Bill was brought in, as is appropriate for such matters by a backbencher, Mr Graham Bright, in response to widespread disquiet at the uncontrolled spread of sadistic and obscene video recordings involv-

ing mutilation, torture and particularly the association of sexual activity with violence - in other words, material now commonly described, by a curious poverty of language, as "video nasties". There is evidence that such material, which can be bought and sold anywhere, is being extensively watched by children (sometimes, unknown to parents, in friends' houses) and that some have been damaged by it. There have also been cases of criminal violence brought to court which left little doubt that watching such videos has helped to condition behaviour.

The Bill therefore attempts to get rid of the video nasties by making it possible for classification to be refused them by a body to which the government delegates responsibility for classifying all video material under the Act. This responsibility, ministers have decided, is to be given to the British Board of Film Censors, expanded and broadened to reflect a wide range of public attitudes. To deal in unclassified video nasties will be illegal.

Secondly, the Bill provides for the public, and most usefully parents, to be given some guidance to the character of the films given a classification. These will be classified, as cinema films are, in a range of categories from those suitable for showing to all ages without qualification, to those suitable for showing only above certain ages and, at the extreme, those given the R (restricted) 18 certificate now used for films that may be shown only in sex shops. The government itself had wanted R.18 videos also to be seen only in sex shops but on that it was unsuccessful in the

Commons where a compromise was reached permitting their sale but only in sex shops. The demand that licensed video dealers should also be able to sell them is one that has been argued in the Lords but it is plainly unacceptable that such material should be available alongside ordinary video material for showing in the home.

A more curious line of criticism has been that television material should not be subject to categorization when it is put on video. There seems to be a suspicion that this could be the thin end of some kind of wedge that might be used to bring other broadcast material under external surveillance. Yet it is wholly illogical to argue that wholly television material made into a film for cinema showing must have a BBFC category certificate, television films put on video need not. If television enters the video market, it should be bound by its rules. As it is, it is a common complaint that the television authorities, apart from their 9.30 pm dividing line, give viewers no useful guidance on categories, just as it is seen by many as an anomaly that broadcasting alone is free from the restraints of existing obscenity legislation.

This Bill however deals with the different anomaly that while television has the oversight of the governors of the BBC and the IBA, and while the cinema has the BBFC to satisfy, video material, which is on tap for the home, is free of any accountability to public standards. It is a moderate Bill that has been amended to attract maximum consent. It should not be put at risk by a few peers riding hobby

Arms control up in the air

From Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams
Sir, Your well-considered editorial (June 13) on "Star wars" will no doubt attract much ill-informed criticism and rebuke. But you are surely right to assert that "a defensive programme would enhance arms control by reducing the potential gains from building offensive weapons".

I believe that a deterrent based on damage limitation and denial of victory could prove to be more effective than a deterrent posture threatening a condition of mutual societal vulnerability. It would also be more consistent with a credible arms-control strategy.

Thus there is a compelling logic to a policy which permits reductions in offensive weapons and which encourages unfettered strategic defence. Moreover, the evidence is clear that significant reductions in offensive-force levels will not be achieved under a regime of mutual assured destruction (MAD).

So-called strategic equivalence resulting in mutual deterrence, has proved to be a sterile basis for radical arms-control measures. Clearly, a victory-denial strategic doctrine and force posture can be rendered compatible with arms control. Therefore the first successful missile intercept in space achieved by the US provides an opportunity for a more realistic arms-control policy.

Nothing could be more calculated to bring the Soviet Union to the negotiating table than a technological breakthrough in defensive capabilities. The need for a strategic doctrine compatible with a serious commitment to strategic defence is now urgent.

A victory-denial strategic doctrine should encourage the United States to pursue real and radical reductions in offensive weapons through the START negotiations.

Finally, a strategic posture based on real strategic defence would be more compatible with the extended deterrent responsibilities placed on US strategic forces.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Institute of Political and Economic Studies,
Sheffield House,
26 Egerton Gardens, SW3,
June 13.

Thoughts on D-Day

From Commander J.W.R. Thompson, RN

Sir, With reference to the letter in *The Times* (June 9) from Lord Airie and Sir John Colville, the War Office official estimate of expected casualties, i.e. killed and wounded, on D-Day was 30 per cent of all men landed that day, whereas the actual figure was 3 per cent.

Furthermore, the War Office continued right up to a few days before D-Day to complain that the Admiralty were not making proper provision for the evacuation of casualties.

These facts should be known, and I consider they justify the statement in your leading article of June 6 that "the British right up to the day remained deeply cautious and unconvinced" in the desire to confront the German Army on the Continent.

Yours faithfully,
J.W.R. THOMPSON,
Commander, RN,
Lavender Hill,
Rectory Lane,
Pulborough,
Sussex,
June 9.

A career in the police

From Mr J. K. Clark

Sir, Both your leading article of June 4 and Chief Constable Birch's letter of June 7 expressed concern about filling senior appointments in the police service.

As a careers master I used to encourage able sixth-formers who were aiming at a commission in the Armed Services to consider the police as an alternative career. I had no success. The Armed Services had no attractions: a sponsored undergraduate scheme, an elite entry system and more challenging and better paid posts at the top.

I believe that the police service should be tapping the same pool of leadership as the Armed Services. To do so it will have to offer the inducements they offer. Can it hope to do that without some form of national police force?

Yours faithfully,
J. K. CLARK,
178 Brickhill Drive,
Bedford,
June 11.

Use of WEA grant

From Miss Elizabeth Monkhouse

Sir, In his excellent article of June 5 on the damage sustained by adult education under cuts imposed by the Government, Phillip Whitehead states in mitigation that "the WEA (Workers' Educational Association) has a special grant to reach out to the adult unemployed".

He may be forgiven for believing this to be so, since ministerial statements have been confusing to all except those roads beneath the harrow who know exactly where each foot-point goes.

The sum proposed for work with the unemployed is £2.5m over three years, a little more than the amount already axed from the budgets of the WEA and the university extra-mural departments combined.

However, some 40 per cent of it is to be spent on regional administration, leaving rather less than 30 pence per head of the unemployed population for teaching purposes,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to cut Third World debt burden

From Mr D. R. W. Potter

Sir, Mr Rodney Leach's proposal in his letter (June 11) about a possible solution to the world debt crisis has considerable merit. However, like all other proposals that have been made, it contains certain artificialities.

It seems to me that one of the fundamental problems is that interest rates are simply too high, and very little attention seems to have been paid to actual methods of their reduction, beyond continued statements by everybody except the Americans that this is crucial.

The solution is an "interest-rate Smithsonian", whereby all leading countries would simultaneously agree to a, say, 30 per cent reduction in the level of their interest rates. This move should be synchronised with clear action by the United States to do something about their deficit.

The immediate benefit of this move would be to reduce substantially the burden of the debt to the Third World countries. There would plainly be a corresponding increase in the supply of the next day, nor would there be on relative exchange rates.

It would seem that the present obsession with supply of money (resulting in inflation continually being fuelled by increasing the cost of money) has produced a market psychology that is likely to continue to anticipate progressively higher rates.

Thus the attempts to reduce inflation are doing nothing other than providing an upward spiral of real interest rates to the detriment of the recovery of the world economy and the possibility for the Third World to repay their debts, let alone service them.

In this connection, it is instructive to remember that 25 years ago it was a universally accepted truth that an increase in the supply of a commodity would reduce the price. One wonders whether we are not being slaves to the current economic nostrums of monetarism in having stood that theory on its head.

What the world clearly needs is to see that a downward spiral of lower interest rates with lowering inflationary expectations can be created and that a new economic order could spring therefrom.

Clearly this requires great political commitment and although central bankers may have all sorts of contingencies in their bottom drawers, the history of the last decade shows that clinging over the precipice is a bad spur to action. It creates massive gyrations in financial markets, all of which have tended to increase interest rates and therefore increase inflationary pressures.

Unless we have a completely new direction, the day is drawing near when debtors may be forced to take unilateral action to protect their interests.

Prince and architects

From Mr Brian Lingard

Sir, The pride and place given to the letter from Sir John Colville and Sir John Colville (June 6) responding on behalf of that section of the architectural profession who have been shaken by those brave words from the Prince of Wales, is most appropriate.

The part which has been played by the architectural press in the years since the war in promoting a brutal and anti-establishment form of modern architecture is a most significant one.

Week after week, month after month, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, *The Architects' Journal* and the *Architectural Review* (the latter magazine under the stewardship of Mr Cantacuzino from 1968 until three or four years ago) have consistently lauded the use of raw concrete, expressed structural frames, unfamiliar cladding materials and exposed service pipes in new buildings.

They have in this way influenced a whole generation of young and inexperienced architects (and many of their elders who should have known better) to follow all the abrasive and illiterate architectural fashions from the New Brutalism of the 1950s to the High-Tech of the 1980s. An appalling legacy has been created, which will remain expensively with us for many years to come.

In what must have been an accidental but extremely well timed, article on the Leicester University engineering building in *The Architects' Journal* of June 6, 1984, there are, however, signs that the folly of past years is at last being seen by the present incumbents at the architectural press.

When this controversial building was first completed in 1963, the *Journal* said that "...out of this clash of site, functional demands and architectural temperament, Leicester Engineering emerges as a vital and nearly flawless solution" and "...it has given fine architects and building committees a

target of the aid system and many donors are competing in their efforts to give away various forms of training and technical assistance which the Chinese are in fact quite willing and able to pay for themselves and which are only devalued by being offered as gifts.

The British Council link scheme, however, is an exactly reciprocal arrangement, whereby each side pays for its own travel costs and the local expenses of the visitors from the other side.

Mr Burgh tells us that some 30 links are being financed under this scheme; this surely demonstrates the wisdom of this approach, and the council is to be congratulated both for saving taxpayers' money and for treating the Chinese with the respect they most assuredly deserve.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HARPER,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield Institute of Technology,
Cranfield,
Bedford,
June 7.

China appears to be the latest

Christian witness and faith

From the Reverend J. L. Houlden

Sir, What exactly do theologians and historically minded Christians such as your Durham correspondents (June 9) require of a man of similar attributes who becomes a bishop? It is not easy to see.

If the requirement is that Christian belief should be recognized as unchanging from earliest times, then they know that it is easy to give examples of change, both in substance and from the effect of the shift in intellectual and cultural context. No modern historian can subscribe to the view that religious beliefs proceed through history as if in an insulated capsule or enclosure.

If the requirement is that essential beliefs do not and should not change, then we must know who is to decide what is essential and what is not. And still, no such requirement can do away with the facts of change.

But supposing it is admitted that beliefs may change and that a Christian now may even deny what his predecessors affirmed (e.g. that the virgin birth was an "event", or that heresy should be forcibly extirpated, or that the wicked will be punished eternally), then is the state of former believers best described as one of "deception"? It would be a bleak way of looking at the matter to say Newton was "deceived" because he did not know Einsteinian physics.

No, to use the favoured Durham term, each Christian generation "witnesses" to God made known in Jesus as it honestly can, or, if we are to put it bleakly, all of us, of whatever time, are "deceived" about God in our various ways - though it is more cheerful to say we are all limited in our perception of the light we have from him.

So the issue is, what is legitimate witness and what is not? Plainly, it is an issue not easily or finally to be resolved; and even guardians of the faith are to be encouraged to explore it relentlessly.

Yours sincerely,
J. L. HOULDEN,
King's College London,
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies,
Strand, WC2,
June 12.

India's economy

From Dr Subroto Roy

Sir, You have been very kind to mention in your leader of May 29 my recent monograph on India's political economy. At a few points, however, a reader of the editorial may be left with the impression that the monograph says something which it does not.

In particular, you say that during British rule in India, "famine relief was centrally organized and skilfully executed without restriction". I shall be grateful if I could bring to the attention of your readers that my monograph has nothing to say about famines at all, either during British rule or in independent India.

The most significant propositions I have tried to argue in the monograph are the intellectual debate in independent India has not been a fair one: liberal critics (Indian and foreign) of the Indian Government's policies have hardly been heard, let alone listened to.

2. Civil government anywhere has certain functions which are indispensable to the continuation of civil life, let alone economic growth.

3. There is overwhelming evidence from a number of independent sources to the effect that the Indian Government's economic policies have not been conducive to mass prosperity.

4. The citizens of India should seek to ensure that their Government does, in fact, fulfil the duties of civil government first and foremost, and this would probably entail a retirement of the Government from inside the marketplace.

Yours faithfully,
SUBROTO ROY,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
Department of Economics,
Blacksburg,
Virginia,
June 4.

Mr Kinnock's company

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Mr Mohammed Arif's letter (June 9) is somewhat disingenuous. He says the Friends of Afghanistan Society was not formed after the so-called "Soviet coup", but was formed in July, 1978.

This is a contradiction. The Soviet coup took place in April, 1978, and was organized by the KGB; the details are in the public domain.

The initial coup placed a puppet named Taraki in the presidential palace. In May, 1979, Taraki was removed by Amin in a fictional dispute and lost his life.

In December that year Amin, in his turn, was murdered in a further KGB coup, which placed the present unconditional puppet, Babrak Karmal, in office. This paved the way for the Soviet invasion.

Yours very truly,
BRIAN CROZIER,
As from: Kilm House,
Dollis Avenue,
Finchley, N3,
June 9.

Bad coxing?

From Dr Magnus Pyke

Sir, Would it be unkind to enquire whether the gentleman who was steering HMS Jupiter (report, June 14) had the benefit of a Cambridge education?

Yours faithfully,
MAGNUS PYKE,
3 St. Peter's Villas,
W6,
June 14.

DANIELLI
cell biology

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to Television, Radio,
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16-22 JUNE 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Solitude can be hard to find in the world of high finance. Where to turn when money is no object? The atoll in the South Pacific? The Turks and Caicos? In the second of an occasional series, our volunteer is offered carte blanche to spend one day exactly as he pleases - and after some reflection, he chooses Greece...

My Perfect Day

Part 2: Basil Boothroyd

Five minutes to midnight. Agear time. Five minutes 10 seconds to be accurate. And you can't get more accurate, for the bedside table, than my late seventeenth-century Viennese quarter-guitar since I had its works scooped out and made over to be a chip.

When Bilson came in just now to say out my pyjamas, from force of habit he picked the watch up to set its Dow Jones and FT index displays. "Clear off Parsons", I told him. He could have wrecked the whole plan for twenty-four hours' negligence.

I think he's Bilson. Staff names are a problem. I may have been confusing him with the Funnifun man at my house in the Funnifun, the idiot who was down in the deep-shelter annex when I was last there in '82, and put his foot through a couple of Picassos. Not that Bilson, that's who he is, can't be just a dumb. The whole staff here has been teleaxed in triplicate Paris, Washington and Geneva, to keep off my neck for the day. That didn't stop him hitting them all up when I popped out on to the helicopter pad, and fighting me for my hand luggage.

You can't rely on people. It's been a hell of a day, not having it. It was new and invigorating, just laying out my own electric hair brushes.

This has been a good choice, telefax on Paromorgos.

Originally, I bought the island as a tax-loss for Amalgamate Cyclades Lettuce. No thought of having a house here. Tourist trouble. There weren't any. We are off the regular trip lanes, but apparently the ACL project managers, the party of culture, were boating over from Naxos some place to gawp at the temple ruins. He mentioned it, his otherwise satisfactory report that lettuce wouldn't grow here, and I took his point.

Whose island was it? Having ordered the ruins knocked down and re-erected at my museum in Palermo, or possibly Denver (it suited out I was on a down winner. Not only no tourists but the view cleared for a base. You don't want to see shambles of mouldering of Greek pillars every morning when someone glides open our Aubusson tapestry curtain.

Not a big fuse. More of a cottage. No a gallery. Tiny banquetting hall. Couple of pools for a range of shape.

It never worked. Clear your mind of things like long-term roll-over commitments, or cross-border exposure to re-scheduled loans, and you're no sooner stretched out in the owner's lounge with your cigar going well than the phones start flashing. Amsterdam. Tokyo. You employ people to take decisions, and they never off the line asking you what to do. Take butter Bates on Turks

Usual offices, soundproofed to damp the computer rattle. Bare necessities. Satellite-dish in the cypresses.

I ought to come here more often.

For this day off it was a toss-up, as a matter of fact, between here and the great rambling Funnifun joint. Or I suppose I could have stayed on the Turks and Caicos. Decisions, decisions. Funnifun being the capital of the Tuvalu Islands, once the Gilbert and Ellice, the place there isn't actually in it, of course. It has a population not far short of a thousand. Admittedly they're mostly my own workers, in G & E Phosphates, G & E Copra, etc., but it means crowd. I'm just on one of the smaller atolls. Spotted it one day from the air. Looked ideal for building. Handy overnight stop if I should be that way again.

So I gave the go-ahead to my architects, and they got the foundations down and the airstrip laid - and then I fired the whole architectural division. They were all right on lental warehouses, or prising out a Gralings Gibbons ceiling from somewhere and sticking it up where I wanted it. They knew damn-all about South-west Pacific atolls only standing 15ft above sea level at the highest point. I ended with the whole thing on 24 marble stilts, not cheap. Never mind the chair-lift to get me up there and then never feeling all that safe.

No, if I'd gone there for the day I could never have thrown care to the winds, as here, it's been perfect here.

Though, to philosophize, is perfection really? I've been thinking about that. People dismiss your average billionaire as a bit short on philosophy. It's true we haven't a lot of chance to fit it in. Not even in the air. The first couple of old turbo-props I had. I thought now's your chance. Flying-time could be thinking-time; and not your everyday stuff about whether to merge Todditoys with Associated Rotorua Geyser, or make West Indies Bananas a holding company for Intercontinental Glus, pure pondering on the nature of life. Aristotle used to do it. Not Onassis, the other one.

It never worked. Clear your mind of things like long-term roll-over commitments, or cross-border exposure to re-scheduled loans, and you're no sooner stretched out in the owner's lounge with your cigar going well than the phones start flashing. Amsterdam. Tokyo. You employ people to take decisions, and they never off the line asking you what to do. Take butter Bates on Turks

and Caicos. Staff of 20, hand-picked. I hadn't been there for three years since last Wednesday. Hardly off the yacht before he was pouring out a tale about the head guard-dog, having littered, and would I choose names for the pups. And up in the master-suite that Chinese so-called valet hadn't been able to wait. Practically pounced on me. Did I realize that 20 of my suits there now had obsolete lapels? "Yu Ku-pung", I told him, "or whatever he called himself, 'there's a Boppy disc of all my addresses with resident tailors. New York, Monte Carlo, Dar es Salaam..." He stripped my other sock off.

I could see it wasn't registering. Might as well read the closing prices to a cow. What's money if it can't buy common sense? In the end you're alone.

Clearing the coastline out of Grand Turk yesterday I was philosophizing along these lines to the pilot, Peasgood. If it wasn't Snell. There are droves of them since I got the last three planes. Had a moustache.

This led back into earlier thoughts on the nature of perfection, and my theory that an occasional pin-prick could heighten its overall attainability. Good every minute, and life would be a drag, didn't he agree? He checked his three greys for wheels up and locked, and agreed. He said it was deep thinking.

They always agree. Crawlers. Be nice, one of these times, for someone to tell me I'm talking a load of garbage. I nearly put this to Julian the barman when I went aft into the Jacobean cocktail recess, still in a reflective mood. But you have to watch your words in our position. They might trigger a reflex. You also have to watch Julian, according to an oblique hint in his last security screening. Probably nothing in it, though I noticed now that our thumbs touched appreciably when he mopped a spurt of Angostura off the bar. And that leak over the Allied Pneumatics deal was never traced. You walk on egg-shells.

So, a minute to midnight now. Agean time.

A long day, but worked out pretty well. A change is as good as a rest. I've had some of each. Couldn't think of anything to do but snooze most of the time. The first change was about 24 hours back, as soon as I'd thrown out Parsons/Bilson and slipped into the sunken bath. No water. I like lapis lazuli. Most of my baths have it. But it strikes cold even in these latitudes. Trust a valet to implement his brief before time. He's had five minutes of yesterday to run the bath. But oh, no.

Turning back my own bed was new. Also no Dick Francis beside it. You get used to that the current copy open at the right page in all houses, in case you turn up on a sudden whim.

Hot in the night, and got up twice in an unsuccessful search for the air-conditioning control. A raft of colour-coded buttons I found behind a concealed panel controlled everything but. They slid open the wardrobe and selected me a pair of golf trousers. They started an automatic boot polisher, poured me a Campari-soda. It developed into quite an exciting game, as



On the other hand, at touch-down I was on the right side by a company or two. Sold Associated Irrigation and Anglo-Biafra Menswear, picked up United Butterscotch, a small trawler fleet, two villages in the Cotswolds. Then I pulled the plugs out. If Caracas came on yet again, upping the offer for Global Liquorice, they could stew.

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Hot in the night, and got up twice in an unsuccessful search for the air-conditioning control. A raft of colour-coded buttons I found behind a concealed panel controlled everything but. They slid open the wardrobe and selected me a pair of golf trousers. They started an automatic boot polisher, poured me a Campari-soda. It developed into quite an exciting game, as

another few thousand tons of sand tankered in from Guadeloupe. There's more than I need at the place there.

Total solitude on the beaches. Perfect. I looked round more than once expecting to see my ex-Scotland Yard minders, clumping along as ever. Nothing. What I did see, impairing perfection for a moment, was a yacht funnel, in my second Liberian colours, poking over the flatish headland. That would be Admiral Helmut von Gscheidelberg hovering, despite orders to keep the bay clear of all craft today. Let alone my personal yachts, for God's sake. Dummkopf.

Halfway round the island I felt hungry. New, stimulating. All the same, it seemed sensible to make for the monastery at the north inlet, begging a crust for a poor wanderer. It was only when I got there, to find the golf course, that I remembered buying out the monks to keep the place select. Moved them to somewhere near Avignon, was it? On a percentage of the Charteuse sales. I had to laugh. I don't often have time for that.

Food was a problem all day, from the time I was back in the house looking for the kitchens. Undiscoverable. I must have been close, because there was a rare old clatter and chatter, and wafts of fried bacon, from behind the door marked Staff Refectory. And loud guffaws when Peasgood, or Snell, said something about a load of garbage. The catering smelt all right to me. It was by luck that I came on the large *cloisonné*

bowl of fruit in the library. It made my three meals. Though I'm not sure now, having finished the last of the lychees for supper, whether I shall have an undisturbed night. Had I over-asserted this independence lark, ordering my medical centre to stay put on Grand Turk?

Forget it. Sufficient unto the day.

Ten seconds to go. Five. Midnight. It's been good, looking back. And good now, settling on the pillow to skim a stack of balance sheets. Like old times.

There goes the phone flashing. I expected that. Caracas. Global Liquorice. Judging from their reckless new bid, my perfect day had panicked them. I rang for some accountants.

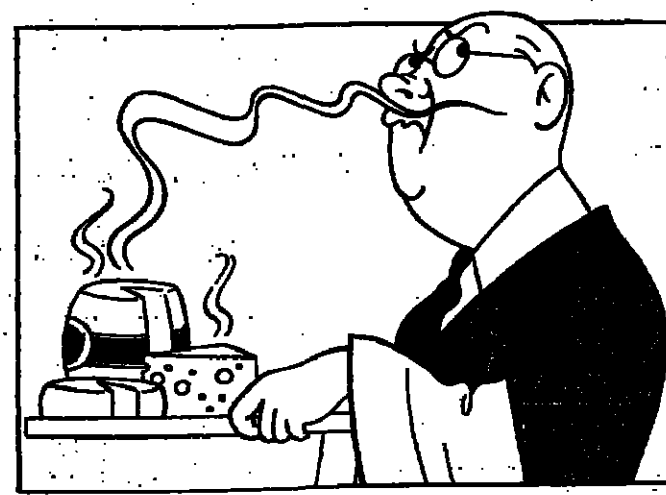
Acid, bovine effusion is perverting our palates, Russell Davies writes

Cheesed off with the whole subject

Very slowly, very gradually, cheese is going over. It's everywhere. You can't get away from it. You may have to leave a tiny niche in your food, the very slimmest interstice, and some fool will fill it with cheese. Not that fool which comes in solid chunks, in the form of a semi-liquid glop, is any guarantee against cheese-involvement. What happens then is that some other fool, usually Italian, leans over your shoulder and before you can say "ugh" he has deposited a mound of noxious cheese-powder in the middle of your hitherto acceptable lunch. "Farmigiano, signor?" he then enquires, a little late in the day. (The correct reply to this is "No, I'm from Liverpool, and take this plate away.")

Cheese, you see, has got everybody fazed. We are brought up to pretend that it tastes pleasant and we continue to live out this third-hand sham till cheese, among other things, do us part. All right, there is no such thing as an objective taste-bud. There are people who like eating soap and coal and newspapers, so where will always be the odd perverted palate who will genuinely enjoy a rancid bovine effusion with maggots in it. But just sit back and let such a substance slobber and crumble over your tongue. Nice, is it? Really? Of course it isn't. You can hardly bear read about it, can you? Cheese is deliberately, calculatedly foul - it is nature's way of saying "leave milk alone".

You cannot blame the cheese itself for seducing mankind into the grandiose art of eating it. I



mean, cheese goes quite spectacularly out of its way to look as objectionable as it actually is. It gives you fair warning. Consider a slice of cheese on toast, newly snatched from beneath the merciful flames of your kitchen grill. It bubbles, it heaves, it glows, it gives off nameless and multiple fumes. It is unmistakably sinister.

Cheese on toast must certainly have been the inspiration of the fellow who wrote that *Quatermass* story where the alien architect squats in a hole and pulses with a loathsome orange radiation. The difference is that in *Quatermass* the outlookers understandably hung back in the shadows, clutching one another for protection against this invading foulness, whereas in life, people will stride quite boldly up to a piece of cheese on toast and sink their teeth into it. Which policy, I ask

you, is the more natural expression of human nature? Surely the former.

Cheese is cunning, seldom revealing its true nature. But just occasionally we are vouchsafed glimpses of its intent to master the world. Watch a person eating French onion soup, for example, and you come close to the secret heart of cheese - its clinging, clawing, parasitic elasticity, its social climbing.

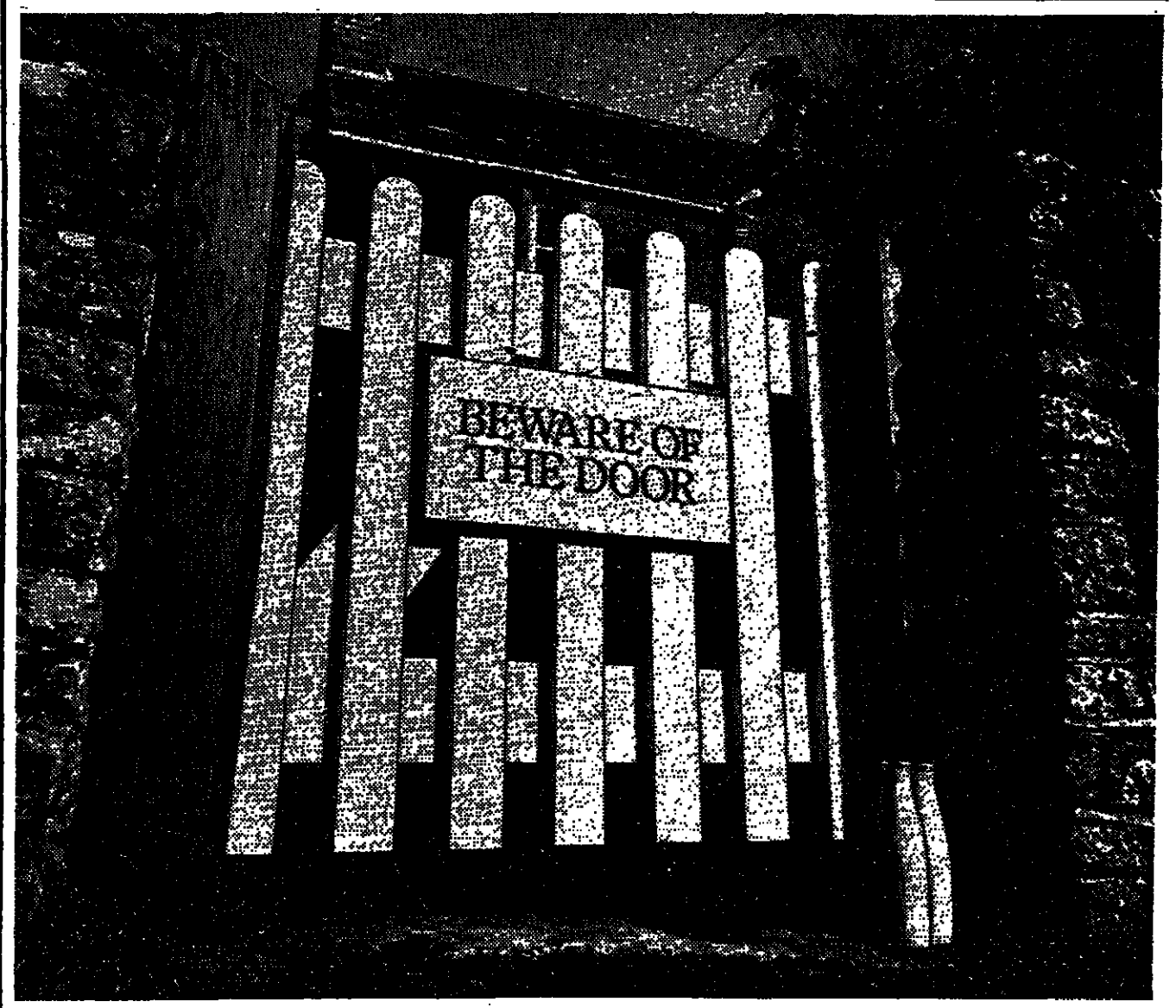
I speak, of course, as one whose body (standing at the forefront of evolution in this respect, if in no other) revolts spontaneously against the ingestion of cheese in any of its protean guises. On an Italian holiday some years ago, I embarked, in a spirit of sociable experimentalism, upon a tasting programme designed to identify the point where food actually stops and cheese begins. The

course started with milk, continued with some form of factory yoghurt, and gradually progressed, via genuine yoghurt with goat's droppings in it, to some form of incipiently coagulating buttermilk.

Then, onward it went to a kind of squidy white substance you can mash up with sugar (to disguise the taste, naturally). Without the sugar, it closely resembled that stuff that fills the gaps between bathroom tiles. I remember noticing this because I was in the bathroom at the time, being sick. So I never got on to the hard stuff, the pallid, sweaty, yellow cheeses - let alone that rotting blue poison with grubs at large in it.

On the whole I don't think there's any point in getting militant about all this. I have no intention of founding a Cheese Loathers' Society, although if there is one, I might consider joining. But it's rather like Temperance - you're in favour of it when you see bruised-looking fat men falling out of the pub straight into the Cortina, but once you get home you forget about it. So it's more a question of sorrow than anger.

To me, there's no more depressing sight than a man in a restaurant calling for the cheese board. (Have you seen their eyes as they survey the massed chunks of putrefaction? There's a particular look of helpless greed that's quite unforgettable.) But I realize there's not much I can do about it, except tell the world that I personally am, in the words of our admirably discerning English language, cheesed off with the whole subject.



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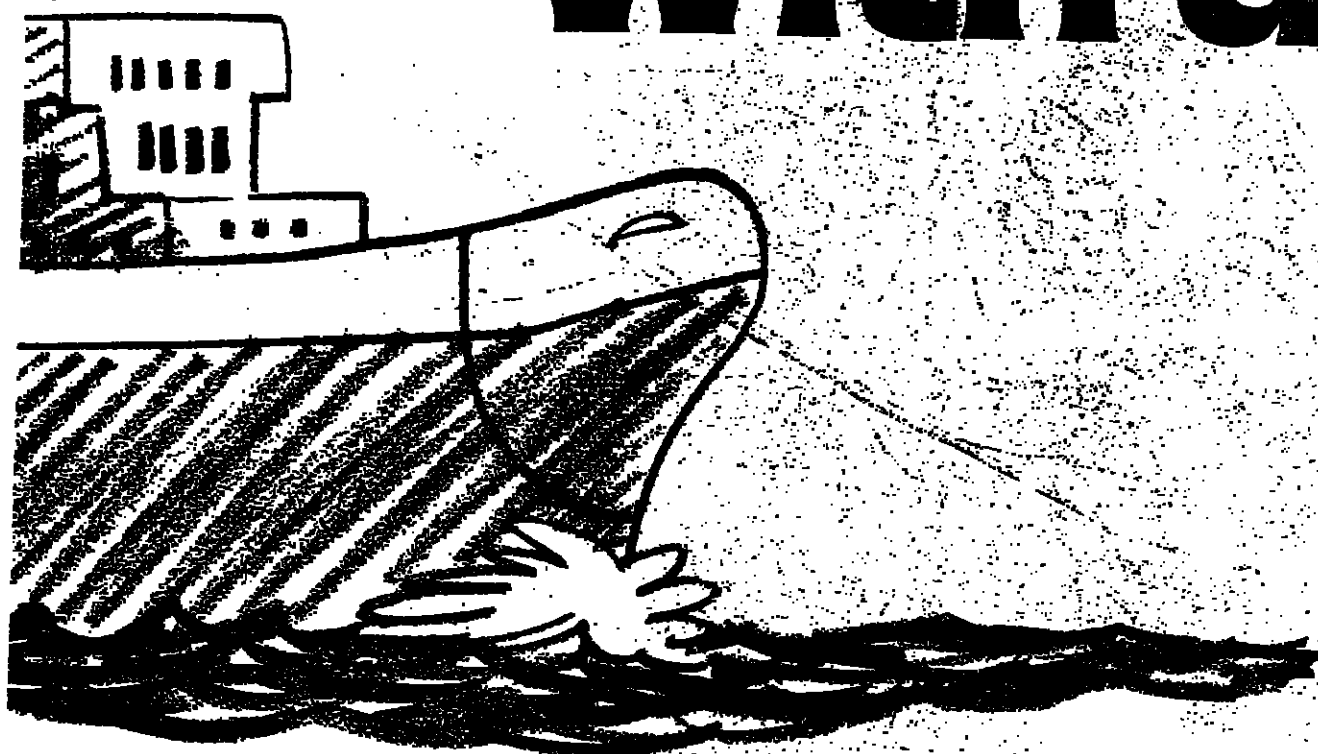
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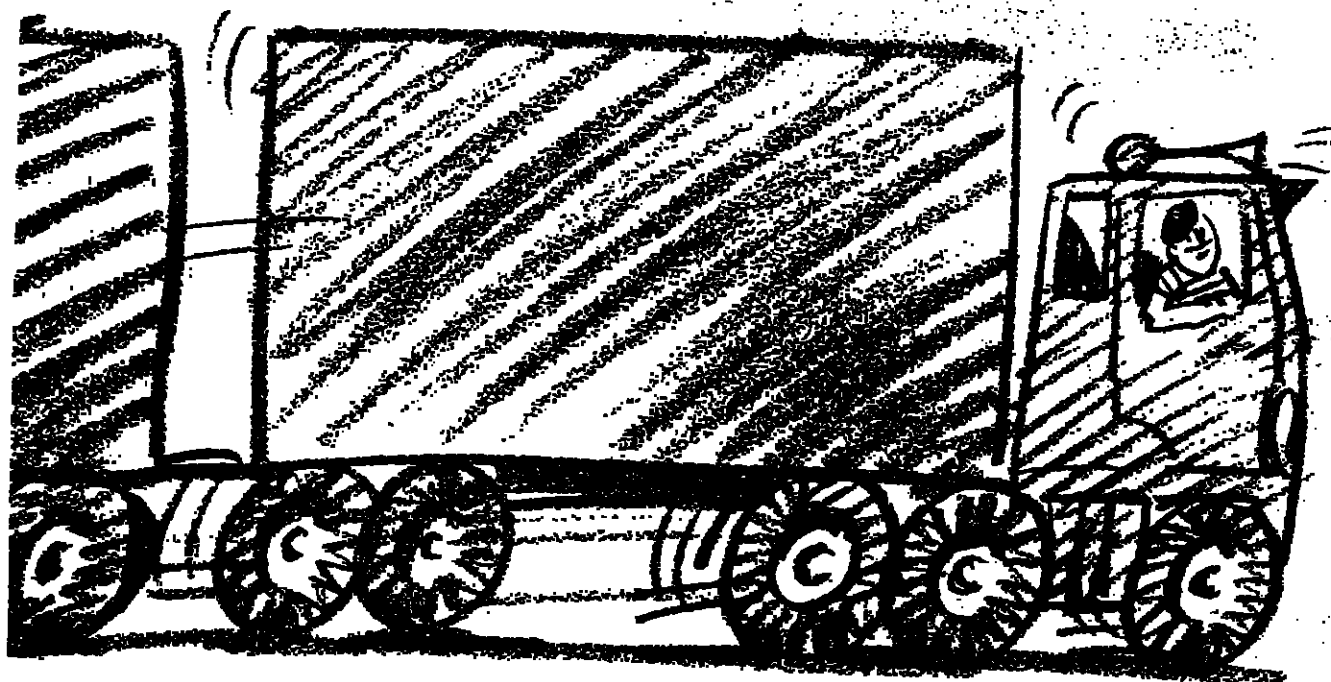
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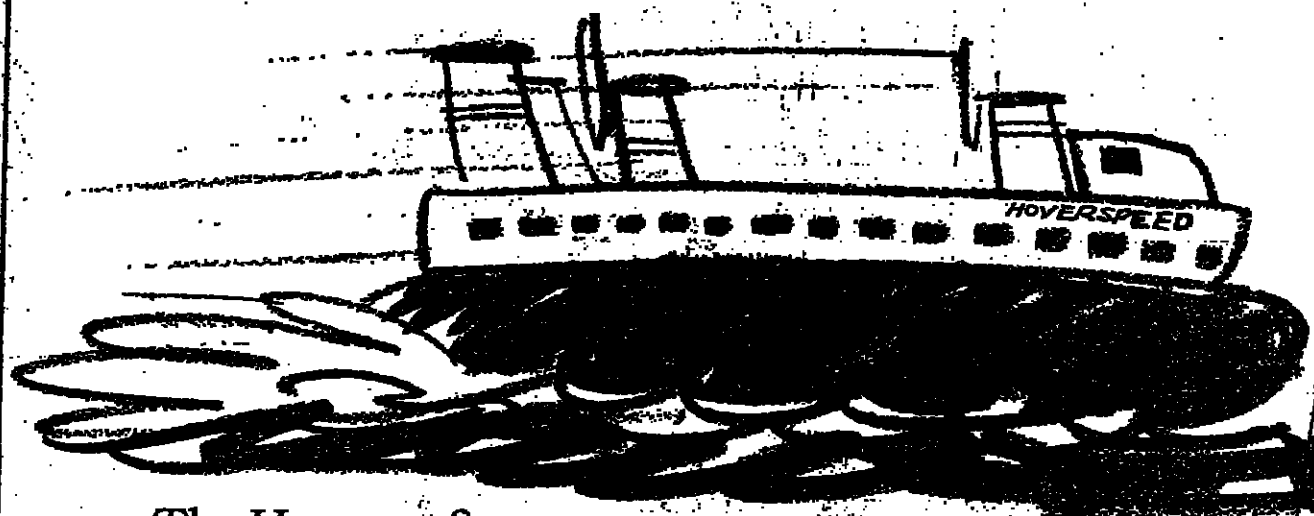
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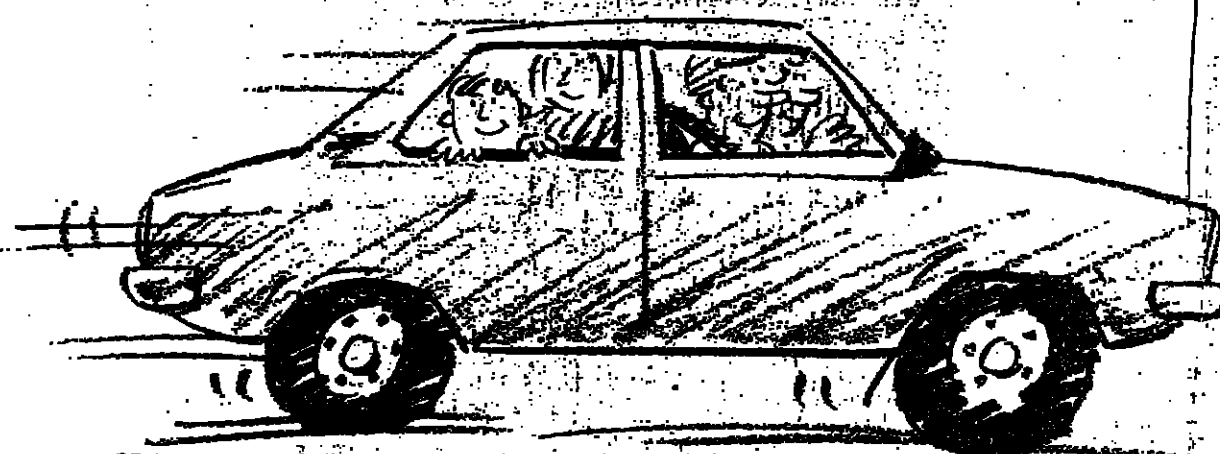
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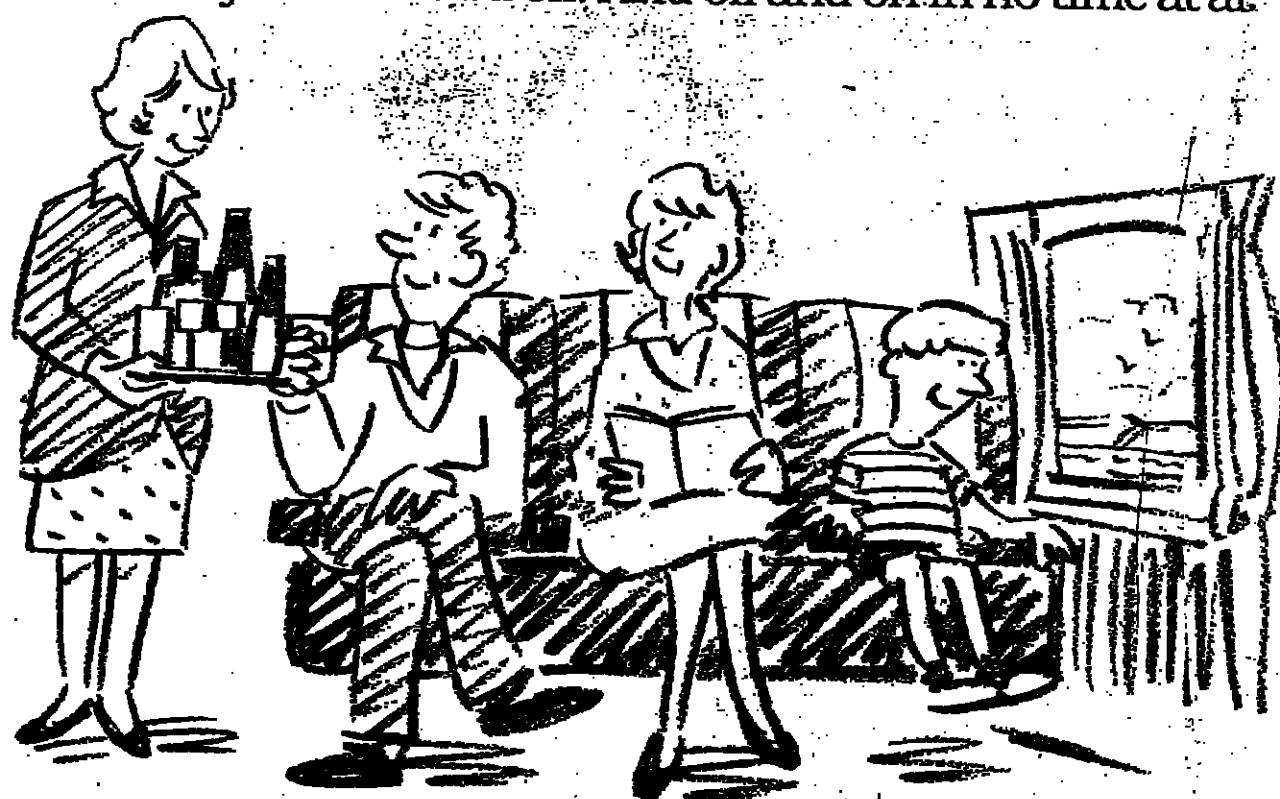
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HOVER SPEED

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

How the streets of the samurai's scalp kept invaders at bay

I used to pride myself on my sense of direction until I came to Kanazawa. There, sitting in the back seat of Ohara's BMW, conspicuously grand amid the swarm of Hondas and Toyotas, I realized I did not have the first idea which way we were going.

The intricate maze of narrow streets that make up the city was the idea of the feudal lords, the Maeda clan, to confound invaders. So effective was the ploy that today's less hostile visitors, armed with modern maps, can wander for hours trying to find the way back to their hotels. Kanazawa's visiting-unfriendly parts of the city are invariably late for appointments.

With a population of 450,000, Kanazawa is the second-largest city on the Japan Sea coast, what the Japanese call "the other side of Japan". What makes it special is that, unlike many other Japanese cities, it has never been destroyed by earthquake, volcano, typhoon or war. Without the destructive twists that other cities have gone through, Kanazawa has grown, giving it a settled feeling of comfortable intimacy with the past.

Kanazawa, about 180 miles north-west of Tokyo, is easily reached by plane or train, yet foreign visitors are few. Those who venture this far from the well-defined path along which the Japanese authorities try to shepherd the foreign tourist are amply rewarded.

In spite of his Irish-sounding name Ohara is the proprietor of the Hachiro sushi shop. He befriended us instantly and over the next few days insisted on showing us his native city. He

Huge carp and cherry trees

explained with a chuckle that Kanazawans take a wry delight in their bewildering geography.

By way of a handy hint for orientation, he told us that from the air the city resembles a samurai's scalp. Appropriately the topknot is occupied by Kanazawa's two most prominent attractions, Kenrokui Park and the castle site, between the twin river valleys of the Sai and the Asano.

Kenrokui is recognized as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. Small by London standards, the park is laid out with all the aesthetic exactitude and economy of space associated with Japanese gardens. Every tree is lovingly tended and shaped, every turn in a path reveals a vista of nature in stylized perfection. The tea house appears to hover above the lake, a waterfall cascades on to rocks positioned to produce the perfect pitch of splash; huge carp glide among the reflections of the cherry trees on the island; but the perfect serenity engendered by the view is shattered by the squawk of a guide's loud-hailer explaining that one of the chief virtues of the garden is its peace.

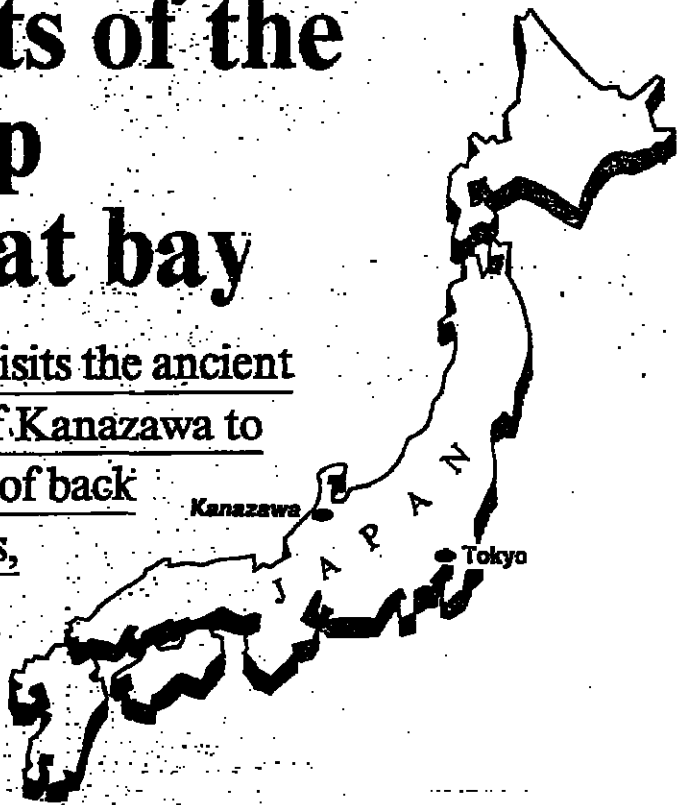
The park was completed in its present form by the twelfth Lord Maeda in 1822. As with so much of the city's legacy, close inspection reveals the curious blend of artistic refinement and constant fear of attack that was the milieu of the feudal Japanese aristocracy. The water features that to delight the eye are part of the supply system for the adjacent castle. The water is piped through stone and wooden conduits, the lake is the reservoir and the fountain, the oldest in Japan, provided a ready means for the engineers to check the pressure from the safety of the castle walls.

The source was a mystery

TRAVEL NOTES

There is only one guide book to Kanazawa in English, *Kanazawa, the Other Side of Japan* by Ruth Stevens (£5.00, pp. 24.50), published by the Society to Introduce Kanazawa to the World. Fortunately it is thorough and well-researched, although some of the information is out of date. It is available from the large bookshops in the city or in Tokyo. Kanazawa can be reached by

Peter Ingham visits the ancient Japanese city of Kanazawa to find, in a maze of back alleys, silk dyers, lantern makers, potters, geishas and touch-free bars...



Japanese gems: The Ishikawa Gate (above) of Kanazawa Castle and the Kotoji stone lantern in Kenrokui Park.

until recently because, according to legend, Lord Maeda, valuing discretion above the obligations of gratitude, had the chief engineer executed as a precaution against treachery.

In spite of the ubiquitous imprint of the Maedas, Kanazawa has an earlier claim to fame. In 1488 a coalition of priests and peasants overthrew the ruling samurai and established the only republic ever to occupy Japanese soil. Self-rule endured for nearly a century before the arrival of the Maeda clan.

To obliterate the memory of the republic the Maedas built their castle on the site of the revolutionary headquarters. The inner part of the castle was destroyed by a fire in 1881, but the massive outer walls and the towering Ishikawa Gate still testify to what must have been an imposing fortress. Few Kanazawans can have enjoyed a view of it, however, as it was a capital offence to climb to any

vantage-point overlooking the castle.

When we asked to see temples and shrines, Ohara-san looked quizzical. Even the city hall has no exact count of them - religious institutions are tax-exempt - but conservative estimates put the numbers at 300 temples and 60 shrines. After a moment's thought, however, he was on the phone to Myoryuji, the so-called "Ninja Temple".

Entrance is by appointment but worth the effort. From the outside the temple, built in 1634, is inconspicuous among the crowded temples of Tera-machi. Inside it is like a life-size Chinese puzzle. It contains 23 rooms and 29 staircases, which to my simple mind seems to offend some fundamental law of geometry. Secret escape routes and points of ambush lie hidden behind disguised panels; trap-doors await the unwary; beneath the rafters is an at-the-time illegal third storey; every room overlooks the well to prevent sabotage and has at least two exits.

Every room except one, that is, a small darkened chamber is reserved for seppuku, (ritual suicide). I peered inside this sinister cell but a conspicuous lack of bloodstains on the tatami mat dashed ghoulish fantasies.

The temple was a Maeda bathhouse and it is said that a

tunnel runs from the well to the castle.

Later, in a spirit of reckless adventure, we plunged unaccompanied into the larger labyrinth of back streets. Here we found some of the traditional shops and businesses of a kind rare elsewhere in Japan.

We came across a street bar where the passer-by can stop for a quick cup of sake, a samisen maker's workshop, a herbal pharmacist. The ash-grey weathered wood of the houses huddled beneath their roofs of glazed black tiles spoke of another age. A tofu vendor pushed a cart and rang a handbell. Old women in kimonos emerged to buy their wares and from behind the paper window blinds came the twang of a koto or the slap of a hand-drum. Glimpses through partly open doors revealed craftsmen at work: a paper-lantern maker, a potter, a carpenter constructing tatami.

To their lasting credit, the Maedas encouraged the local crafts and imported artists to enrich the indigenous culture. Today Kanazawa is an important centre for the traditional arts, especially lacquerware, gold-leaf work and pottery. But the jewel in the crown is Kaga yuzen (silk dyeing).

Todosan, a friend of Ohara-san and a noted yuzen designer, took us to his workshop and those of his colleagues to explain the 14 painstaking manual processes required to produce breathtaking kimonos.

Smoked beam and boiled crab

Each of the specialized skills requires a 10-year apprenticeship.

No less conspicuous than its crafts is Kanazawa's cuisine. There are enough eating places to make it possible to have three meals a day at a different restaurant for more than two years without visiting the same place twice. Everything is offered, from European dishes to the local Kaga cooking, which enjoys the same reputation in Japan as Perigord food does in France. We settled first for a succulent boiled crab and smoked sea bream.

In Korinbo there are watering holes of every kind from the homely warmth of the "Tudor Pub" to the enticingly named "touch-free" bars where young women will sit on the customer's knee, from the narrow haunts of the tired company man to elegant saloons where well-groomed young men dance with mysteriously grass-widows.

Outside the parish nook of the modern city, the small white lanterns by the doors and the narrow wooden slats over the windows seemed decorous and discreet. A geisha in a bright silk kimono passed, the clatter of her wooden shoes echoing in the quiet street.

Suddenly suffused by an hilarious joy and steering by the stars, we staggered off home-wards, two small creatures crawling across a samurai's scalp.



Clear light and crystal reflections: The island and lake at Claremont

Glimpses behind the scenes in three great gardens



The oldest tree in the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley is a Japanese larch. Knarled and ancient, it sits like a bonai in the magnificent rock garden. My attention was drawn to it by Michael Garston of the Society, who also pointed out the banks of hummer, hair hanging from whip-like canes among the rose beds. "We are told," he said, "that human hair deters deer". A quizzical smile lit his face.

His enthusiasm was infectious as he showed off many of Wisley's fine flowering cherries, on each of which, it seemed, he could hang an anecdote. It was the ideal lecture, the ideal way to see such a vast garden: informative, racy and taken on the hoof. I lamented my late arrival the previous evening, which had deprived me of Michael Garston's illustrated talk.

The tour of Wisley, in Surrey, was just one element of a Ladbroke Hotels Garden Lovers Weekend. Other enthusiasts

weekends range from bridge to bird-watching. Bring together a group of gardeners and you will have netted a fair collection of diverse individuals. Married couples, single people, old and young are all happily thrown together. But what made this particular weekend so enjoyable was not just that our party of 17 visited three magnificent gardens (Claremont, Wisley, Savill) and spent three hours behind the scenes at Wisley's Alpine House, but that it was organized with such enthusiasm and efficiency by the staff of the Seven Hills Hotel, near Cobham. One felt cosseted, as though one's fanaticism was more than merely tolerated but actively encouraged.

Claremont, the oldest surviving example of an English landscape garden, was, on that Saturday morning in early April, all clear light and crystal reflections in the placid lake, while Wisley in the afternoon was a litany of wonderful trees and discreet revelations from professional gardeners: they made it clear that even experts make mistakes and learn by them.

We were taken behind the scenes at Wisley by John Warwick, of the Society's Alpine House, who can occasionally be seen on Channel 4's *Gardeners' Calendar* struggling with an enormous rock garden which he views in private with detached rancour. He let us fawn over his collection of plants which are usually kept well away from the public gaze. Here, set in yards of cold frames, are the beginnings of the national collection of crocus which he hopes will eventually number 600 species. And it is here too that he and his staff raise 8,000 alpine annually so that the Alpine House is never wanting for fresh specimens.

The Savill garden, a cultivated woodland which we visited on Sunday morning, was a complete contrast to Wisley. Drifts of narcissus *Bulbocodium* could be glimpsed in contrived meadows and mature magnolias

climbed high into the woodland canopy. But the highlight for me was the Temperate House, packed with plants from Asia and a striking tree fern, *Dicksonia fibrosa*, which played out its leathery fronds beneath a cascade of yellow from an *Acacia longifolia*.

The Savill garden receives 300,000 visitors annually. John Bond, the keeper of the garden, who had escorted us in brisk and friendly fashion, emphasized that there were no gimmicks to pull in the crowds: "All we can offer is good and better gardening". Which is precisely the quality which had driven us to experience the Garden Lovers Weekend.

Michael Young

Racing the snails to Australia



A decade ago when transatlantic fares were deregulated, travellers needed a calculator to work their way through the wealth of possibilities. Now (Linda Christmas writes) the calculator needs to be applied to Australian gateways, not because the airlines are undercutting each other's prices, but because they are fighting to see who can get there fastest - not a bad selling point on such a long trip.

British Airways has been running double page advertisements in Australia claiming the fastest run between Sydney and London and depicting its half dozen competitors as snails crawling along behind. The advertisements have caused amusement rather than irritation among the other airlines, but the traveller should be wary.

British Airways does offer the fastest run, but only two days a week - on Wednesdays by 50 minutes and Fridays by 10 minutes on the journey to Sydney and on Mondays and Thursdays on the journey from Sydney. For the other five days BA is the snail; on some days its routes vary daily - by several hours.

Qantas, BA's nearest rival, holds the record for consistency. Its flights leave at the same time each day, take the same route and the same length of time. As a rule of thumb the airport to airport time to Sydney need not be more than 24 hours or 25 hours on the return journey.

Singapore Airlines competes well five days a week. Cathay Pacific, even with its new non-stop flights to and from Hong Kong battles along behind, and Philippine Airlines stops so often it doesn't even qualify.

Fly-drives

Poundstretcher, the BA subsidiary, offer substantial reductions on North American fly-drives (Nicholas Wapshott writes). For instance, the regular BA Fly-drive price of £384 to Florida costs only £349 by Poundstretcher (for holidays taken before June 14) and, similarly, the BA price of £517 to San Francisco costs £489 by Poundstretcher (for holidays between June and September). The same hotels and car hire firms are used by both companies.

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Playing the game with parents

Playtime is extremely hard work for the toy manufacturers these days. It is no longer enough to produce baby dolls and building blocks, teddy bears and trains. Today's toys must be creative, active, safe, non-sexist and non-racist since psychologists, physiotherapists and politicians took a hand in child development.

Parents appreciated the value of learning through play long before the professionals and had it not been for their insistence the National Association for the Welfare of Children, the Pre-School Play Group and the Toy Libraries Association would never have existed.

Only one of these groups, said Dr Elizabeth Newson of Nottingham University last week, did not have to fight professional prejudice. The Toy Libraries Association was welcomed because its value for handicapped children was recognized immediately.

"Otherwise the history of the relationship between education authorities and parents has not been happy", said Dr Newson, who with her husband Professor John Newson founded the Child Development Research Unit at Nottingham.

"There was a lot of resistance to parents taking part in the early education of their children", she said. "And for a long time the toy industry went along with those ideas. The sort of toys that parents were shown at

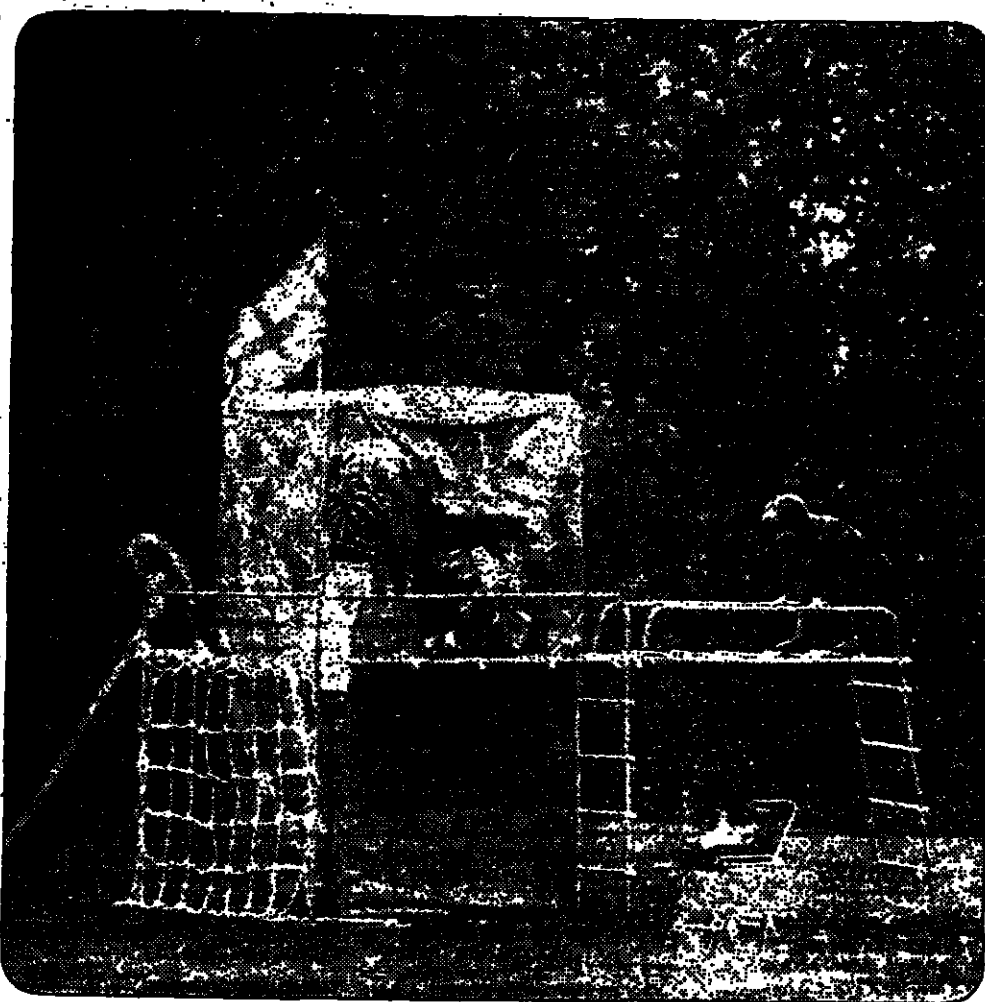
school open days were available only on an educational supply invoice. There has been a big change in the past 10 years. Parent groups produced lists of best toys and other parents set out to buy them."

The importance of the interaction of children and adults through play was emphasized by Professor Newson. Research did not prove, he said, that children who have the benefit of an early nursery school education did any better than those who started school at five.

"In nursery schools children enjoy themselves and play with each other a lot, but they are not interacting with those who have skills which they will need later, like reading and writing. They talk to an adult only 2 per cent of the time they are at a nursery school."

Babies, on the other hand, are very active learners and develop their learning skills through their relationship with an older person. By about 18 months they are capable of conveying thoughts to those around them - what they like and don't like - without words.

"This is the foundation for the way in which they eventually learn language, and if you want nursery education to be the foundation for something like competence in reading and writing later on, you must introduce a relationship related to those skills instead of leaving it to incidental learning."



Quadro and Gympo are both large-scale construction kits which make climbing frames and have wheels to make them mobile, so there is plenty of scope for imaginative active play. Gympo's contribution to the original idea is a new form of connector which easily clicks into place, but needs for safety reasons a special key to disconnect.

That apart, there is little to distinguish one make from the other. Both come in various sets. Quadro has three sizes from 74 pieces at £59.95 to 133 pieces at £99.95, wheels extra at £29.95 per pair. Gympo has two sizes, with or without wheels, 92 pieces at £59.95 and 144 pieces at £99.95, but the tubes are slimmer (deliberately, because they are easier for a child to grip, they say).

It would be pleasant to say that the British product was perfect, but when we watched a very gymnastic child playing on the Gympo frame the structure moved quite noticeably, which may not be unsafe but does not give the appearance of the sturdy solidity of Quadro. One of our consumer testers has had Quadro for two years and has found it completely stable, even under the weight of 12 children at a time. Quadro is available from all branches of John Lewis, from Early Learning Centres and Hamleys. Gympo will be at Galt shops and branches of W. H. Smith next month.

Climbing frames in galvanised steel tubing with a range of add-on swings, slides, trapeze rings and scrambling nets are made by TP Activity Sports. Their Explorers' Frame at £150 can be fitted with a platform (£19.95) and ladder (£11.95). There is also an upstairs tent (£29.95) and a downstairs tent, cheaper, wouldn't you know, at £24.95. The range can be seen at branches of John Lewis.

Another outdoor toy which looks terrific fun is TP Activity's Slippy Slide. A 10m length of plastic, it can be used in conjunction with a garden slide - water dribbled down the slide produces a fast accumulating effect without the need for a pool (£14.95 at John Lewis).

Above: Explorers' frame with a range of accessories, including platform, ladder and tent. From TP Activity Sports. Right: Two uses of the versatile Quadro kit (£29.95) and a downstairs tent, cheaper, wouldn't you know, at £24.95. The range can be seen at branches of John Lewis.

Pre-school toys

Realizing the importance of early learning, wedding-tions last week introduced a range of learning-through play products aimed specifically at three to five year olds. It is called Playworld and includes 29 products including simple games, counting and spelling, jigsaws, dominoes, activity and construction toys.

Among the most appealing are Chunky Dominoes and the Teaching House. The dominoes are easy-to-handle chunks of sturdy card with domino spots on one side and transport pictures on the other: buses, planes, cars, ships, helicopters. For age three, plus, they cost £1.49.

The Teaching House is a plastic house shape with windows and shutters. There are 10 cards - alphabet, counting, adding and so on - and the child slots in a card and lifts the window shutters to find the answers. For age four plus, £2.99. Both games are available at branches of Woolworths.

Learning through shared experience is affecting the ranges produced by Playschool, owned by the American company Milton Bradley. They were the pioneers of electronic toys in the pre-school market but they are now detecting a move towards conventional board games.

"Many parents are recogniz-

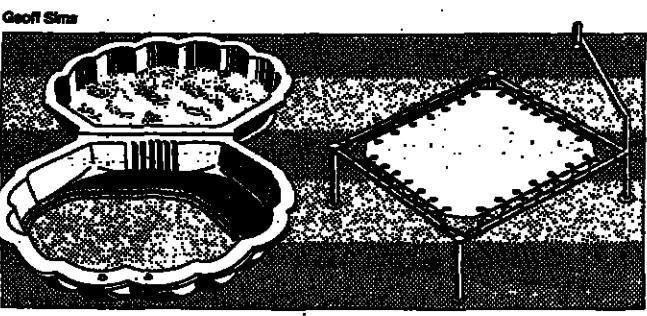
ing that videos and computers are solitary activities and are saying 'let's buy something we can all enjoy together'."

Among their latest toys for younger children are two washable rag dolls dressed in clothes designed to teach the use of zippers, buttons, poppers and laces; they will be available shortly at Fenwick's, Brent Cross for around £7.

It has to be admitted, though, that the toys giving most enjoyment to the pre-school children invited to the launch of the ranges in Hyde Park last week were the "in" toy of the season, a four-wheel drive, battery-operated truck with forward, neutral and reverse gears called Big Foot (for about £9 from most British Home Stores in September) and a plastic cooking hob with a pop-up toaster and the appalling name of Lil Lady (available shortly at Fenwick's, Brent Cross for around £9).

Activity equipment

When it comes to activity equipment there seems to be as much jostling for position among the manufacturers as among the children who play with their products. This year there is a new British version of the highly acclaimed German-made Quadro system. It has been produced by Quadro's erstwhile distributor, Bob Magid, and is called Gympo.



Outdoor activities: Shell sandpit and paddling pool by Montrose (left) costs about £27; and junior trampoline by Allison

Paddling pools

If a paddling pool is all you need, Boots have just introduced a 5ft size with flip-up rigid plastic sides for £7.95. You fill it with lin of water, smooth out the bottom and fill up to 1ft deep. It has jolly jungle creatures decorating the sides and is tougher than a basic inflatable pool.

Trampolines

For those who enjoy trampolines, Allison have produced a new junior version with a continuous filament nylon mat usually used only in full-size trampolines. It is self-leveling and very stable, and instead of a long continuous bar it has a detachable T-handle which can



be adjusted in height: a child can hold on to the T-bar until it has confidence in being able to control the bouncing. The mat is 3ft square and the frame 3ft 6in square and 14in high. It costs £29.95 from all nine Lewis's department stores including Manchester, Bristol and Leeds.

Bars on a trampoline should only be used by small children under supervision. A bar of any kind when they get older and bouncier could be a hazard and children have had their teeth knocked out by landing on a hand-held bar.

For this reason Allison have designed their bar to be small enough to be covered by the child's hands, so that if it bumps its chin it will be hitting its own hands and not the metal. Another safety factor is the space of no more than 1/4in between the edge of the mat and the frame, so that a small foot cannot be trapped.

The British Trampoline Federation has a code of practice of users and teachers which is meant for those using trampolines competitively in schools, but which includes pointers for anyone with a play trampoline too.

Never allow a child to put up a trampoline on its own.

Trampoline shoes or socks must always be worn.

No jumping for long periods - 45 seconds to 1 minute at a time is enough.

Shopping around

Most stores specialize in a limited number of ranges of outdoor activity toys but if you live within reach of Kenilworth, north London, you will be able to see one of the largest selections of climbing frames, tents, slides and accessories from 14 manufacturers at a company called Montrose Products. The play equipment is also available from their free mail order brochure.

This family business has been meeting the demand for play equipment since 1972 and has concentrated on low profit margins and high turnover. On Saturdays the queues for the showroom are so long that customers are let in a few at a time, but they find it worthwhile because their children are allowed to climb all over the displays. You will find Montrose at 28-34 Fortness Road, London NW4 (01-485 6751). No frills, but fun.

SHOPFRONT

Ballpoint and felt-tip pens are the scourge of summer clothes - one mislaid pen and a light fabric can be stained for ever. Now Stain Devils have introduced an antidote.

I found their Ball Point Pen remover more instantly effective than the Felt Tip Pen remover, but with perseverance this worked, too. I used both liquids to remove stains from white cotton and a certain amount of rubbing was necessary in both cases, so I'm not sure about the claim that they can be used on any fabric.

However, my musical assistant did manage to follow the test from the keys of a piano. Each costs 99p for 45ml at Harrods.

Memorable flowers



Pressing flowers was a Victorian accomplishment, and the art of making pressed-flower pictures from cultivated flowers is still flourishing, even though children are encouraged to conserve wild flowers by not picking them.

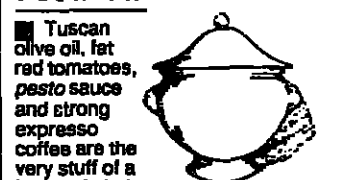
When Yvonne Saunders became interested in pressing flowers 10 years ago she followed the text books with several disastrous results. So she began to experiment.

She now makes all types of flower pictures to order - simple bunches of red roses, table decorations from christening corns, pressed bouquets - pressed and reassembled exactly as they were. The bouquets are mounted on silk, velvet or on a piece of the wedding dress fabric and pieces, framed, are from £35 (7in x 6in) to £210 (25in x 29in). The picture illustrated is called Charlotte (15in x 19in), £85. A brochure of her work is available from Petals & Lace, 70 New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (0371 39966).

Foodnote

Tuscan olive oil, fat tomatoes, pesto sauce and strong espresso coffee are the very stuff of a holiday in Italy. If you can't wait to get there, the Courant Shop at 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 will give you a taste of things to come.

In the basement the Italian Kitchen is offering a splendid range of foods and cookware. The three-part soup tureen illustrated costs £20.65; a glazed terracotta Segna Caldai (a simple bowl with a nightlight underneath), which keeps sauces warm, costs £5.95. The pesto sauce is a dream (£1.70, 170g) and the espresso is a dream of red tomatoes in oil for antipasto or pizzas (£6.25, 490g).



IN THE GARDEN

The labour-saving daylight delight

One of the best of the summer flowering herbaceous plants - and coming into flower now - is the Hemerocallis, commonly known as the day lily. Each day a new flower opens on the spike, folding and dropping in the evening. The plant is thus left clean and tidy; you rarely need to pick over it; and it flowers continuously throughout the summer.

Day lilies will tolerate a wide variety of soil types but should be planted into well prepared ground. Aim for soils which are just below neutral, with a pH of 6.5. Moist soils are preferable.

Prepare planting positions by digging in organic matter - well rotted compost, farmyard manure, peat or bark - and mix it with the bottom spit. It is usually better to dig the whole border; single holes can act as drainage sites in a wet or clay soil.

A bonemeal dressing at about 4oz to the square yard, raked into the top spit, helps to establish young plants. Once they are growing, feed regularly with a fertilizer such as Phostrogen or Growmore.

Leave them undisturbed for as long as possible, lifting and dividing them only when they become a nuisance - and that may be six years hence.

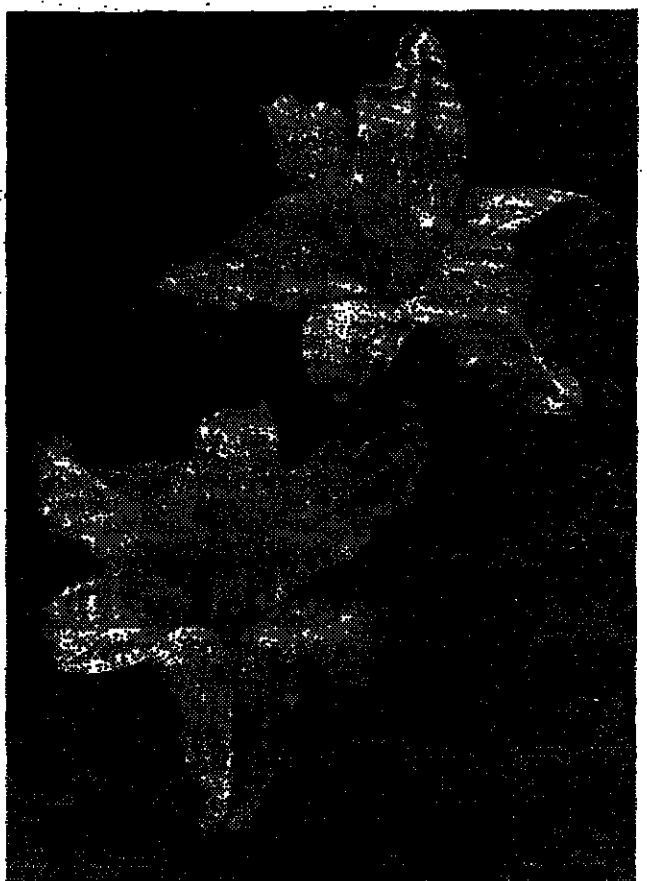
Planting is best done over the dormant season, October to March, during a spell of open weather, and the crowns should be planted to the same depth as they were before, about 18in apart. Plants are available in containers, allowing summer planting, but this requires much more care, and more watering.

Mature day lilies have strap-shaped branches, with long arching spikes rising from the centre of the plant. The sword-like leaves will add variety to any border throughout the year and the delicately-shaped flowers, much like lilies, have a faint but discernible scent. They can be used in salads, and were originally grown for the kitchen.

Day lilies come in many colours and forms, flowering at different times, and I have a number of favourites. Stafford has much to commend it, with its deep red flowers set off by their orange throats, and Burning Daylight is aptly named, a rich orange with large flowers.

Of the yellows (perhaps the most common colour) the best is Larksong, though Golden Orchid, more gold than yellow, has much to commend it. Morocco Red is another favourite, a deep red with a golden throat. Pink Damask is, to my mind, the best pink, but others prefer George Cunningham.

Frans Hals is as near as we have to a bi-colour, a maroon flower with a yellow centre to the petals; a good variety, but I



Rich orange shade: The large flowers of Burning Daylight

suspect there will be better forms available soon.

All the above are more than 2ft tall, and some more than 3ft, but there are shorter varieties. Bonanza is about 16in high, with orange flowers. The form dumortiera grows to almost 2ft, with deep yellow flowers.

Prices vary, but good plants are available at most garden centres for about £1.50 each.

Ashley Stephenson

Some like it hot

Cucumbers like a warm humid atmosphere, and given optimum conditions will produce a bigger and better crop. Grown under general greenhouse conditions they will still produce enough for a large family.

Plants are available now and should be planted without delay. Ideally you should prepare mounds of loam, farm yard manure and sand in equal quantities, about 18in across and 8in high. Water them well and plant, ensuring that the stems are not covered. Allow 2ft between plants. Keep tomatoes and cucumbers apart in the greenhouse, so that the cucumbers can be kept moist.

The greenhouse should be as warm as you can allow, and it is vital to keep not only the mounds but also the foliage moist. Surplus water must drain away quickly. Once the required height has been reached, the tip should be pinched out, inducing lateral growth. To stop the plant becoming overgrown the laterals should be stopped after every second leaf, and every sub-lateral (shoots which break from the laterals) at every first leaf. Male flowers with their short stalks, should be removed.

Staking their future

Many plants, whether they be climbers such as clematis or herbaceous plants like galega, need some kind of staking. The climber illustrated is a clematis. Nearly all climbers, except the self-clinging varieties, require a specialized framework. Try to ensure that there is a gap between it and the wall as free air circulation is important. Put distance pieces behind the trellis; the gap need only be 4in out more than that is desirable. In some cases you only need to tie the main branchwork in with well nails; although this does not allow the air to circulate as much as is usually necessary, the plants do not seem to suffer.

Self-clinging climbers, such as ivy and Hydrangea petiolaris, can adapt to almost any situation. They will stick to a wall or a fence equally well, although it may sometimes be necessary to give them a start by tying in the first few branches. Remember that once they become detached from the wall they will not readily attach themselves again, so the branches should be tied in to enable the plants to make new suction pads on the young growth. The best way to stake herbaceous plants is with pea sticks. These are branches cut from birch and other trees which should be stiff with a good branchwork.

Push them deep into the ground and give them a good base as they have to hold up heavy plants. The tips of the branches should finish just below the eventual height of the species being staked, so that as growth progresses they are hidden by the foliage. Cut the pea sticks to the required height. Canes or bean poles are also used, usually for tying in individual shoots. Tie the string to the cane and not to the plant and make sure the tie does not slip up or down by giving it a double loop round the cane. The height of the cane should be at least 10 per cent lower than the height of the plant. Many different kinds of climbing frames are available. They can be good but you must select the plants carefully.



Heated discussions on claret

In recent years claret drinking has almost been able to assess the latest vintage simply by weighing the bump that comes thudding through their letter box. I doubt whether the stream of vintage reports, tasting notes, en primeur price lists and ludicrous publicity that accompanied last year's vintage will ever be matched.

My postman may be pleased that the current crop of '83 Bordeaux reports is slightly lighter than last year's. But I can't say that I am overjoyed, when his postbag still contains reports such as this one from Colomarex: "The 1982 and 1983 vintages in Bordeaux are like two brothers. The first is extrovert, handsome and charming, destined to be head of school... and for a brilliant career. The second is reticent, attractive in character, promising at least a top second at university..." An example of winespeak at its worst.

Sceptical wine lovers will have long ago learnt to disregard vintage reports, especially those with a "vintage of the century" theme, and to judge the wines for themselves. By now, most will be wondering how Bordeaux, after the impressive '82s and fine '81s, has managed to pull off its third good vintage in a row.

The weather, of course, had much to do with it. Although 1983 got off to a bad start with a cold wet spring, hot weather during the all-important flowering period in June ensured another bumper crop (just 10 per cent down on the record-breaking Bordeaux '82 vintage).

The next two months were hot, too, but the combination of heat and heavy rain in August produced a dangerously humid atmosphere. This created problems with rot for those estates which did not spray regularly. The beginning of September was warm but the hot weather had returned by the end of the month and continued well into November.

Excessively high fermentation temperatures have obviously made life difficult for chateaux without sufficient cooling equipment, just as they did last year. The best '83

clarets came from those chateaux courageous enough to delay picking as this gave their grapes that extra degree of ripeness.

Despite the good colour and high levels of natural sugar and alcohol shown by the '83s, some have the exceptional richness and fruity flavour of the previous year's vintage; they are much more austere and firm. The hard tannins of the '83s for instance will mean these clarets will take longer to mature than the '82s, which had soft tannins.

Everyone agrees that overall 1982 was a much better year than '83 (and that '83 is better than '81), but there are a few chateaux which feel that their '83s are better. Many properties in the Margaux area share this view because by some freak of nature Margaux and its neighbouring villages received half as much rain as anywhere else in the region during August.

Pick and choose

Perhaps the most important point I should make about the '83 claret vintage, having been to two big London '83 tastings, is its tremendous variability. You really do have to pick and choose to get the best of Bordeaux '83 and if you have already invested heavily in the superior '82s you may well feel like giving '83 a miss. Having said that, however, they will last longer than the '82s - a point stressed by most of the wine merchants running opening offers - and you never can tell when the next good Bordeaux vintage will come along.

Of the 50 or so '83 clarets that I tasted, some of the most impressive were the St Emilion, La Gaffeliere, for example, showed well at both tastings and is inexpensive while at the other end of the price scale I enjoyed Pigeac, Labegorce Zede from Margaux is a modestly priced cru bourgeois, while the St Julien stars, as usual, were Ducru Beaucailou and Léoville Poyferré. Of those from St Estephe I liked Calon Segur and Cos d'Estournel (though it wasn't a patch on the '82), and Grand Puy Lacoste and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, from Pauillac, were real stunners.

Jane MacQuitty

As usual with an *en primeur* claret, these wines will not be shipped until autumn 1985 or spring 1986. The wines named are priced between £40-£120 per case, with at least £15 for shipping, duty and VAT. Companies which stock a wide range include Henry Townsend, Chalk Pit House, Colehill, Amersham, Buckinghamshire; Adams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk; Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street, West, Colchester, Essex; and Les Amis du Vin, 7 Ariel Way, Shepherds Bush, London W12.

Angela Gore



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Video cassettes

Fairy-tales that will put some stars in the eyes

Faerie Tale Theatre was the brainwave of the American actress, Shelley Duvall, and it came to her, appropriately, while she was playing Olive Oyl in Robert Altman's film, *Popeye*. Her idea was to choose a batch of classic children's stories and get them made specially for video, with a strong sprinkling of big names.

The first five (of more than 20) are released this month and the teen-eyed will spot Joan Collins - no less - as the wicked witch in *Hansel and Gretel*. Tatum O'Neal as *Goldilocks* and Tom Conti and Liza Minnelli as prince and princess in *Princess and the Pea*. Also involved in the project are Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall, Elliott Gould, Vanessa Redgrave and so on.

If this smacks of gimmickry it will hardly bother the children of roughly seven years and upwards for whom these tapes are mainly intended. *Hansel and Gretel* was happily enjoyed in my household without any connection being made between the villainous hag and the bitch of *Dynasty*. In any case, why should children not have a few stars, as long as they are properly used?

Despite its twee title, *Faerie Tale Theatre* is a production of a high standard, well photographed and treating its subjects in a lively and entertaining way with a strong narrative flow. Above all, it has proper respect for the stories, while discreetly working in modern dialogue and, in some cases, contemporary settings.

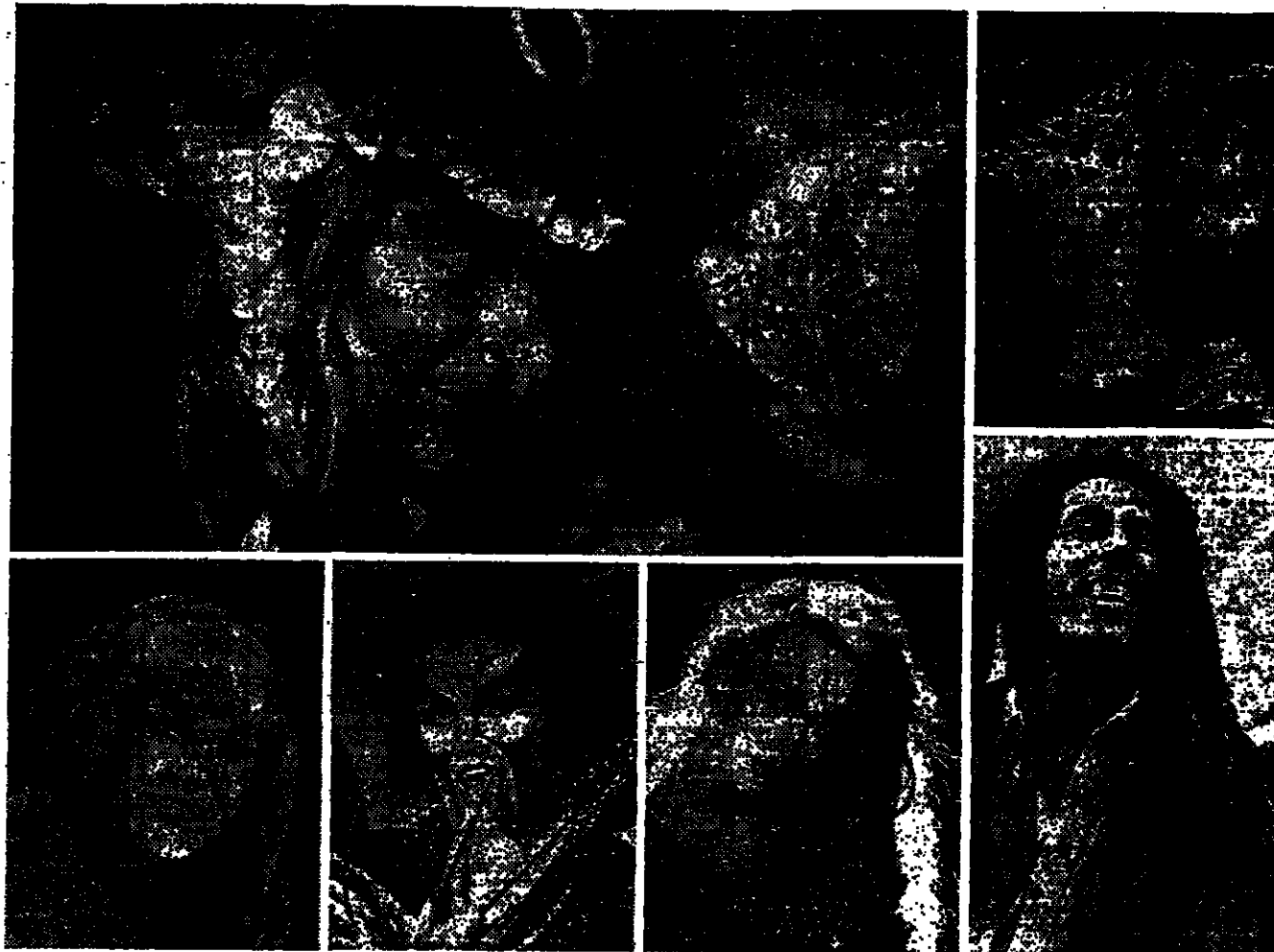
Faerie Tale Theatre MGM/UA Home Video, £19.95 per cassette
Enid Blyton's Famous Five
Longman Video, £28.25 per cassette
Goldilocks (58 min)/Friend or Foe (57 min) Rain Video, £21 each
Unico (80 min) Mountain Video, £29.50

The running times of 50 minutes to an hour are just right: long enough to present the story adequately but not running the risk of losing the attention of younger watchers. By video standards, too, the tapes are modestly priced and may, as MGM/UA hope, tempt parents to buy rather than rent.

The *Famous Five* venture seems, by comparison, undernourished. The series was originally made for Southern Television on what looks like a decidedly spartan budget, and there is a touch of the home movie about it. The sets and locations lack conviction and the child actors who necessarily have to carry the stories sometimes behave as if they are giving a recitation on school speech day.

On the other hand, for all the criticism heaped upon her for middle-class stereotypes, Ms Blyton did know how to tell a story, and *Famous Five* children will find their favourites faithfully rendered. Each tape lasts 75 minutes and contains two complete adventures, so again there is little danger of younger children getting bored. What may bother them, though, is the poor sound quality.

Goldilocks and Friend or Foe are two fairly recent (1977 and



From bitch to witch: Joan Collins (top) as the hag in *Hansel and Gretel*. Below her, from left, Tatum O'Neal as *Goldilocks*, Beverly D'Angelo in *Sleeping Beauty*, Jerry Hall in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Right, Bob Marley and Eurythmics

1981 respectively) features made for the Children's Film and Television Foundation, which for more than 30 years has been providing films for the Saturday morning matinees. Both films, among a selection from the CFTV recently released on video, have had their quality recognized by prizes from international film festivals.

Friend or Foe is a straightforward, crisply handled, adventure of two boys looking for a crashed plane in wartime Britain. One of the boys falls in the river and is rescued... by the plane's German pilot. *Goldilocks* is more ambitious in theme, a fast-moving comic fantasy, with excellent special effects, about a friendly space traveller with an enormous appetite for human food.

Like Enid Blyton, the Children's Film and Television Foundation has been criticized for its middle-class attitudes, though whether this conditions youngsters to the extent that left-wing sociologists like to make out is a debatable point. I suspect that *Goldilocks* and *Friend or Foe* will appeal as stories, and suckers too to ideology.

Unico is an attractive cartoon from Japan about a magical

unicorn with the power to bring happiness wherever he goes. The visuals are strong enough to survive some unctuous American dubbing, but it all comes down, once again, to the story and my children, at least, found this tale of good overcoming evil holding their interest for the full 90 minutes.

Peter Waymark

most obvious in her remarkable gift for masquerade, makes Eurythmics natural leaders of the mini-movie genre.

Of the 14 songs included in *Sweet Dreams*, however, only four are given the full treatment of Jon Roseman's resourceful direction: they would have made an excellent video EP, but the long-player is padded out with a static and predictable film of a concert at Heaven, the gay club in Charing Cross. A contrived introduction and epilogue, using actors and animation, does not provide the sort of cohesive framework that must have been the intention of director Derek Burbridge.

Donovan Letts, who made his name with *The Original Punk Movie*, fares rather better than Burbridge as the compiler of *Legend*, 13 songs performed by the late Bob Marley at various stages of his career. Five of the songs come from a concert in 1977, when Marley was at the height of his powers, more unexpected, though, is the modest but historically invaluable take of "Stir It Up".

The clips specially made to accompany "Buffalo Soldier" and "One Love", his two posthumous hits, are worth their space: elsewhere one would prefer to have seen more close-quarters footage of the "Wailers' marvellous rhythm section in action. In 20 years' time, that will seem even more of a missed opportunity.

Richard Williams

The pop market's complete pose

Perhaps the most highly evolved form of video art, the three-minute pop videogram is predicated on the belief that watching musicians playing their instruments is not an interesting or worthwhile experience.

In the context of present-day pop, this is often true. Much of the music is so specifically conceived for the recorded medium - just as Phil Spector's was in the 1960s - that it needs no life outside the studio. The synthesizer, too, has made a great difference. Now, thanks to people like David Bowie, Bryan Ferry, and the West German group, Kraftwerk, we have the notion of the complete pose, an all-consuming act perfectly suited to video.

Already it is possible to trace the history of the pop video, to identify its landmarks. These begin, beyond question, with Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" from 1975, a stunning clip in which multiplying images mirrored the vocal layering of the record; no one was in any doubt that the video was largely responsible for keeping a posterously over-inflated record at number one for nine weeks.

Four years later, the school-room scene in the Boomtown Rats' "I Don't Like Mondays" set new narrative standards, again matched to a record whose pretensions were above the norm, again with remarkable commercial success.

Sweet Dreams and *Legend* exemplify two contrasting approaches to the problem of putting together a marketable full-length videogram devoted to a single artist or group: each is, at best, a qualified success.

Annie Lennox's highly developed visual imagination, at its

Eurythmics: Sweet Dreams (The Video Album) (63 mins)
RCA/Columbia, £19.95
Legend: The Best of Bob Marley and the Wailers (55 mins) Island, £19.95

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Richard Williams

GALLERIES

Discomfort allayed by an aura of calm

It took 96 sittings, over a period of 18 months, for Sir William Coldstream to complete his recent portrait of the architect Colin St John Wilson. The subject's clothes were quite worn out: "There was a hole in the bottom of my trousers, my suit was frayed... in the painting you can see the white coming through," he says. The powerful portrait can be seen along with some 20 other works at the D'Offay Gallery in London from Wednesday.

Coldstream, now aged 76, applies methods and ideals established over 45 years ago. As a member of the Euston Road School, along with Victor Pasmore and Claude Rogers, he renounced contemporary artistic trends - surrealism and abstraction - in favour of "objective representation". Since then, his refusal to swim with the tide has been reflected in a multifarious career. On the one hand he was a painter who, in Anne D'Offay's words, was "not understood or appreciated in the 1930s although he is entirely up-to-date today"; on the other, he had a successful career in public service, as a trustee to both the Tate and National Galleries, vice-chairman of the Arts Council and Slade Professor of Fine Art, being knighted in 1956.

Today, Coldstream is back at work after a period of illness. The pictures on show - still lifes, nudes, landscapes and urban scenes - reflect the haunts and habits of a lifetime, but have a new consistency and strength. Gone are the days when he painted Adam and Eve brown and white, literally colour by gender, and when he went to a coach painter to learn how

to draw straight lines. The colours, although thinly applied, are lively.

What makes the paintings most memorable, however, is their aura of calm. In direct contrast to the vulgar velocity of the modern world, they are painted in an atmosphere of protected privacy, either within the tranquil four walls of a studio, or like some of Colin St John's paintings, "in a faint, hidden perch at a window".

Those painted while on holiday in Falmouth are reminiscent of Cézanne in their use of colour. For all the discomfort of the sittings, St John Wilson found Coldstream immensely entertaining. He was, for a start, "amazing to watch", still feverishly making comparative measurements and dramatic changes at the very last session. "He had a little bottle of turpentine and one brush," St John Wilson says. "He would mix the colour, paint for a bit, then go back to square one. Clean brush, look hard, measure again, hold out a plumb-line; get both the vertical and horizontal relations. I just don't know how he's got the physical vigour."

Intrigued by his own changing face as work proceeded, but afraid of offending the master, St John Wilson started taking surreptitious Polaroid snaps of each day's work. "I didn't dare tell him," he says, "but in the end he was very pleased".

Sarah Jane Checkland
"Sir William Coldstream Paintings" opens on Wed at the D'Offay Gallery, 9 Dering Street, London W1 (029 1578). Until July 20, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.



Picture power: Coldstream's portrait of Colin St John Wilson

Openings

SCOTTISH EXPRESSIONISM: Comprehensive exhibition of modern Scottish painting. Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, London SW1 (034 7856). Opens Wed. Until July 22, Wed-Sat 10am-6pm.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SCULPTURE: An Arts Council touring exhibition of 15 works from a period of 90 years presented with such questions as "how are they made?" and "what is their purpose?" The sculptors include Paoletti, Moore and Barry Flanagan. Milton Keynes Central Library exhibition gallery, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes (0908 605536). Opens today. Until July 21, Mon-Wed 9.30am-5pm; Thurs, Fri 9.30am-5pm; Sat 10am-5pm.

FRENCH NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY PAINTINGS: First major painting show for two and half years. Includes works by Corot, Daubigny, Harpignies and Derain. St Pancras and De La Wre, 25 Cork Street, London W1 (734 3534). Opens Wed. Until July 20, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

RENAISSANCE PAINTING IN MANUSCRIPTS: British Museum (030 1555). Until Sept 30, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-5pm. These exquisite fifteenth and sixteenth-century miniature paintings include illustrations to love poems, and a family tree.

Selected

BIRDS IN AN INDIAN GARDEN: P & D Colnaghi, 14 Old Bond Street, London W1 (406 3324). Until July 14, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Combining both naturalistic and aesthetic appeal, Mughal paintings showing the ornithology of India during the late 1700s.

HEADHUNTERS: Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734781). Until July 15, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm. "Can you really tell what a face shows? Are we really showing our true character as we go out and about?" asks Helena Tomlin the Arts Council trainee whose show this is. A variety of artworks dealing with the human face, including works by Goya, Lowry and Henry Moore.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: ABERDEEN-PORTRAIT OF A CITY. Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen (0224 645333). Until July 7, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Alfred Eisenstadt was one of the pioneers of photojournalism who had a long and distinguished career with Life magazine. He is still working at the age of 86 and the pictures exhibited here are from a two-week visit to the city last summer. They are

A lens still alive to the throb of life

Of all the grand old men of photography currently celebrating their life work, André Kertész is perhaps the most talented and certainly the most interesting. He has been photographing "little happenings", as he describes his pictures, since 1912, when at the age of 18 he acquired his first camera. He was then living in Budapest.

In 1925 he went to Paris where contact with artists such as Mordrian and the surrealists led him to experiment with elevated views of streets, the kerbstones and cobbles forming a grid crossed by a myriad of human beings. During this period he began to make pictures which suggest a monumentality extending beyond the photograph's borders. By 1933 he was experimenting with a distorting mirror.

When Kertész moved to America in 1936 his life became a struggle. Photojournalism hardly kept him going and in 1947 he joined Condé Nast, where for 14 bitter years his contract confined him to photographing elegant domestic interiors and little else. Yet he always managed to find a few private moments to photograph

subjects closer to his heart, and by the early 1960s these pictures began to attract the attention they deserved.

However, fame has not brought great rewards. Kertész's geographical horizons have more or less shrunk to his apartment high above Washington Square in Greenwich Village. Yet his eye is still alive to the unexpected and the surreal.

There are also the eloquent still-life subjects seen with great clarity, but when Kertész breaches the walls of his apartment his photographs, such as those taken in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris in 1960, sparkle with an innocent freshness. It is as though at the age of 90 he were seeing the world through the eyes of a child. In such photographs he captures the everyday throb of life with a quiet dignity.

Michael Young



Symmetrical study: "Chez Mordrian, Paris, 1926" by Kertész

Photography

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astrophysically fresh and youthful and demonstrate Eisenstadt's ability to establish an instant rapport with his subject. They are also published as a book by Mainstream, £9.95.

TRAINS: Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock, Chippenham, Wiltshire (0245 734589). Until July 31, daily 11am-6pm. A wide variety of pictures dating from 1837 to the present which will appeal to all railway enthusiasts. The show, drawn from the archives of British Rail, includes a section on

the Victorians who kept the trains running.

BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY: 1838-1900. Victoria and Albert Museum, London (01-859 6371). Until Aug 19, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. The best British photography of the period including the famous shot of Brunel standing in front of the Great Eastern launch chain, and some less familiar, such as Edward Fox's study of an oak tree in winter and summer. All prints are original and the majority are from the V&A's

own collection. Catalogue available, price £9.95.

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: Stilla Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 7140). Until June 30, Tues-Sat 12.30-6pm. Sixty-four wrongly filed colour photographs with captions rediscovered in 1978, documenting federal assistance programmes to impoverished farm families ravaged by the depression in the American south from 1939 to 1941. Included is work by Jack Delano, Russell Lee and Marion Post Wolcott.

MAYER'S MUSIC: Thurs, 1.15pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1081). Virtuoso piano music by Billy Mayerl, not often heard in places like St John's, is played by David Owen Norris.

TUCAPSKY, COULTHARD: Thurs, 7.30pm, Pincus Room (928 3191, credit cards 928 8800). Margaret Bruce gives the world premieres of Tucapsky's *Fantasia quasi una Sonata* and Coulthard's *Sketches from the Western Woods*. For and aft: Schumann's *Fantasy Op 17*, Mozart's *Piano Sonata K 333*.

RAUBENHEIMER MEMORIAL: Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall. In memory of the fine South African pianist Marc Raubenheimer (killed in the Madrid air crash last December), several pianists gather to play the Bach-Busoni Chaconne, Beethoven's *Sonata Op 111*, Scriabin's *Préludes Op 11* and Book 1 of Albeniz's *Iberia*.

ELISO VIRSALADZE: Fri, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. A pianist hitherto unknown to this column, Eliso Virsialadze goes for Schumann's *Fantasy Op 17*, Chopin's *Polonaise-Fantasy* and Mozart's *Minor Rondo*. The end comes with Prokofiev's *Sonata No 2*.

Concerts: Max Harrison; Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

ROCK & JAZZ

NOW'S THE TIME: Today and tomorrow, The Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (326 1022). This short jazz festival includes the Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, American tenor saxophonists Archie Shepp and George Adams, the exotic pairing of Egberto Gismonti and Nana Vasconcelos (all today), plus Gato "Last Tango" Barbieri, Gary Burton, the interesting new group Working Week, and the Weir/Sitting quartet joined by Dick Morrissey (all tomorrow). From 11am to 11pm on both days.

FLYING PICKETS: Tonight, Oxford Apollo (0865 243041); tomorrow, Bristol Hippodrome (0272 298444); Mon, Hexagon, Reading (0734 591591); Tues, Portsmouth Guildhall (0705 825355); Thurs, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W8 (748 4081). Tonight a capella travesties, spiced with a little far-left rhetoric.

VAN MORRISON: Tomorrow to Wed, Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (580 9562); Fri, Southampton Gaumont (0703 29772). The most dignified of grown-up rock musicians, preserving the mystery of his art behind the mastery of his craft.

JOHN STEVENS FOLKUS: Tomorrow, Strathearn Hotel, Birmingham (021 456 9777); Mon, Town Hall Studio, Salford (0793 26181); Wed, Leadmill Arts Centre, Sheffield (0742 754500); Thurs band, London (01 534 5105); Fri, Dovercourt Arts Centre, Stockton (0642 611659). The latest ensemble conceived by

the great English jazz drummer and teacher, the 10-piece Fokus features the bass of Danny Thompson (formerly of Blues Incorporated and Pentangle) and Ed Speight's provocative guitar.

ERIC BURDON: Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (439 4777). Last seen with the revived Animals, the Gordie blues-belter is joined for this week by George "Zoot" Money, singer, organist and former leader of the Big Roll Band.

ELTON JOHN: Mon/Tues, Queen's Hall Leeds (0532 431961); Wed/Thurs, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590). His recent stuff - particularly "I'm Still Standing" - is his best in a very long time.

ROGER WATERS: Thurs/Fri, Earl's Court, Warwick Road, London SW5 (381 4255). Waters sets new standards of misanthropic excess. The first half of these concerts, including *Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall*, is clearly designed to attract and appease old Floyd fans; part two is devoted to the new *Pros and Cons of Hitch Hiking*, performed by a band which includes Eric Clapton, Mel Collins and Tim Renwick. We are promised "a spectacular mixed-media presentation".

STEVE WUNDER: Fri, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 780 2016). We don't need no cynical old rock stars... what we need is Wonder's healing soul music. The new is that he no longer accepts requests for "Fingerprints" and "Uptight", which were laid to rest at a recent concert in Detroit.

CONCERTS

Revival of the post-revolution Russians

So many and various are the events of the Almeida Festival, which started on Thursday, that little more than a list of the main landmarks can be attempted. In fact there are several festivals in one here, and that devoted to Russia may be the most enlightening, especially those programmes centred on the immediate post-revolutionary years.

Musik by long-neglected composers such as Rozaevetz and Popov will be heard, classic films by Eisenstein, Podovkin and Kozintsev will be seen with new, especially composed or improvised, musical accompaniments. There will be readings from early, and quickly suppressed, satirists of the revolution such as Zoshchenko.

"Aspects of French Contemporary Music" is the title of another group of concerts, which includes the London premieres of new pieces by Xenakis, Greek born but now living in France, an entire programme of Georges Aperghis, and a staged recital of Hélène Delavant named "Tango Stupefiant". Related to this is the "Satie Weekend", with his *Messe des Pauvres*, *Socrate*,



French festival: Georges Aperghis and Hélène Delavant, both due to appear at the Almeida Festival

and a 24-hour performance by a relay of 20 pianists of his *Vexations*. Notable, also, will be the world premiere of Orlando Gough's opera, *Mozart at Palm Springs*, in which the central character is a composite of Mozart, Glenn Miller, Schoenberg and Charlie Parker. Other staged events include the Eudymion Ensemble's presentation of Harrison Birtwistle's *Down by the Greenwood Side*, and the UK premiere of Gavin Bryars's *Three Studies from Medea*.

Naturally, the Electro-Acoustic Music Association is involved, and presents a two-day spectacular of live electronics, theatre pieces, computer and analogue tapes, projected over a system of 20 loudspeakers and including the London premiere of Stockhausen's *Klavierstück XII: Lucifer's Dream*. Even more exciting, perhaps, is the prospect of the first-ever complete performance of Cornelius Cardew's *The Great Learning*, its seven movements, based on Confucius, spread over two days and keeping busy almost 130 participants.

Max Harrison

Festival enquiries to Almeida Theatre box office, 295 Upper Street, London N1 (359 4404).

LA ROCHEFOUCAULD IN ENGLAND: Today, 11am, Ickworth House, Ickworth, Suffolk (072 885 3543). At Ickworth House, one of the further-flung parts of the Aldeburgh Festival's empire, Sir Peter Pears reads from La Rochefoucauld's account of his 1764 visit to East Anglia and Mary Vemey performs appropriate music on Ickworth's Clementi piano.

BACH VESPERS: Tomorrow, 7pm, St Anne's, Gresham Street, London EC2 (373 5588). The Locoalido Ensemble under Peter Leas-Cox performs Bach's Suite No 4, Cantata No 129 *Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott* and other items in the context of a Lutheran service, as originally intended.

CANNON'S LOGOS: Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall (935 2141, credit cards 741 9999). Philip Cannon's Logos receives its London premiere from David Campbell (clarinet) and the Bochmann Quartet. They also play Weber's *Clarinet Quintet* and string quartets by Haydn (Op 50 No 1) and Tippett (No 2).

RAIN AND WATER: Tomorrow, 8pm, The Maltings, Snape, Suffolk (072 885 3543). British premieres of Takemitsu's *Rain Spell* and *Water Ways* are given by the London Sinfonietta. An as yet untitled piece by the younger Japanese composer Jondo Kondo is also included.

CHORAL RARITIES: Mon, 1pm, Barbican Centre (628 8795, credit cards 638 8891). Some unusual choral pieces are heard from the BBC Singers, including Tippett's *Spirituals*, Dvořák's *Songs of Nature*, Elgar's

Choral Songs Op 71 and Gerstwin's *By Stratus*.

MARTINU AND MOZART: Mon, 1.10pm, St Anne's. The Plasgan Quartet provides a rare opportunity of hearing Martinu's Piano Quartet No 1 (1942); they also play Mozart's G minor Piano Quartet.

MORE TAKEMITSU: Mon, 7.30pm, Snape Maltings. Another Takemitsu UK première, this time of his *A Flock Descends into the Pentagonal Garden*, is given by the City of Birmingham Orchestra. They also perform Schoenberg's orchestration of Brahms's G minor Quartet, and Jean-Philippe Collard solos in Flavel's G major Piano Concerto.

PIANO EXTRAVAGANZA: Mon, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall (928 3191, credit cards 928 8800). A flock of pianists gather for such monstrosities as Czerny's arrangement of Rossini's *Semiramide Overture* and Norris's of Debussy's *La cathédrale engloutie* for 18 pianists (18 pianos), Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* for 8 pianists and percussion, Reizenstein's *Variations on The Lambeth Walk*, and so on.

LISZT SERIES: Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall. For the third concert in his important Liszt series Kun Woo Paik chooses the *Wagner Klavier Variationen*, B-A-C-H Variations, Ballade No 2, Scherzo and March, and the *Welltemperirte Clavier*.

BLOBOKAR'S DISCOURS: Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall. The Domus Ensemble - so called because they have built their own geodesic dome - give the eagerly awaited London premiere

of Blokar's *Discours VI*, besides Gerstwin's *Plano Quartet K 493* and Brahms's *Piano Quartet Op 60*.

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THE WEEK

THE WEEK

Sport

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW: Continues today at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, when the main event is the Radio Rentals Pussanoo. It is the one in which competitors are eliminated as the big red wall gets higher and higher. Television coverage, BBC1, 9.15-10.30pm. The show ends tomorrow with the Everest Grand Prix, also on BBC1, from 10.35pm.

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX: Alain Prost's win in the rain at Monaco put him 10½ points ahead of his nearest challenger, Niki Lauda, in the motor racing drivers' world championship, with René Arnoux, who won the Canadian event last year, in third place and Derek Warwick of Britain fourth. Highlights of the race, from Gilles Villeneuve circuit, near Quebec, BBC1, tomorrow, 10.35pm.

EASTBOURNE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS: A chance for the world's top women players to warm up for Wimbledon on the immaculate grass courts of Devonshire Park. The formidable Martina Navratilova will be trying to win the event for the third year running, while the top Briton, Jo Durie, is seeded fifth. Play starts on Mon, with television coverage from Thurs, BBC1, from 1.45pm and BBC2, from 3pm.

ROYAL ASCOT: Gets under way on Tues with the Royal Drive and the fancy hats; these, and the day's card, are being covered on BBC1 from 1.40pm and BBC2 from 3pm. On Thurs, the richest race of the meeting, the £40,000 Gold Cup, BBC1, 3pm.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Four relatively unfancied sides contest the semi-finals of cricket's 55 overs

competition on Wed, with Yorkshire playing Warwickshire at Headingley and Lancashire taking on Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. Television coverage of one of the games on BBC1 from 10.55am and BBC2 from 3pm.

Auctions

NINETEENTH-CENTURY PAINTINGS: This is the week for all lovers of Victorian painting to descend on London. Sotheby's and Christie's between them have six sales of nineteenth-century paintings and drawings. Highlights at Sotheby's on Tues are Millais, Leighton, Sorolla and Liebermann - and a small version of Gervex's wonderfully sexy "Rolla". At Christie's on Fri great works by Leighton and Arthur Hughes are joined by Friedrich.

All the sales will be on view from Mon. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080). European Paintings and drawings Tues, 7.30pm; European paintings Wed, 11am and 2.30pm; European drawings and watercolours Thurs, 2.30pm.

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 0606). Continental pictures and drawings Thurs, 10.30am, important pictures Fri, 11am.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (861 2231). A.C.C. Parker collection of Victorian and Continental pictures Tues, 2pm.

CHINESE TREASURES: Sotheby's and Christie's hold their major summer sales of Chinese ceramics and works of art this week. At Sotheby's on Tues there is a fifteenth-century moonflask and a remarkable collection of archaic bronzes. At Christie's on Wed a rare and charming Tang Dynasty



Low humour: Drawings by Sir David Low of Lord Hailsham (left) and C. E. M. Joad and a book cover design (see Other events)

pottery goose rubs shoulders with an exceptionally fine Northern Castal vase and a Yuan fourteenth-century blue and white dish, while snuff bottles and jades follow on Thurs.

Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080). Tues, 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1, (839 0606) Wed and Thurs, 11am and 2.30pm.

FURNITURE TREASURE: A superb and rare secretaire of 1760 from the German workshop of the Roentgen family, father and son Abraham and David, is expected to

fetch more than £100,000 in Phillips' furniture sale on Tues. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (829 6802). Viewing today 11am-noon, Mon and morning of sale. Sale Tues 11am.

DUCAL GOLD: Two other sales being held at Phillips on Tues: modern British pictures and sculpture, and fine jewels, which include a glittering collection of gold items from the Dukes of Cambridge.

Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (829 6802). Modern British pictures and sculpture, Tues, 11am, fine jewels Tues, 1.30pm.

GOLD CHAINS: Christie's are offering a collection of gold chains in their sale of antique jewellery on Wed. One they date to around 1850, another is identical to a chain found on an eighteenth-century Spanish wreck, and one is nineteenth century. Otherwise they have not dared to date them.

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 0606). Wed 2.30pm.

Radio

BARNACLED: On June 16, 1904 the 22-year-old James Joyce and a Galway chamber maid, Nora Barnacle, took a walk by the sea at

Flingsand, near Dublin. The event was later immortalized as Bloomsday in Joyce's novel *Ulysses*. For an eighteenth anniversary programme, the Irish dramatist Eric Evans has reconstructed this and other meetings between Joyce and Nora which led to their falling in love and agreeing to make their lives together. They are played by Sean Barrett and Maggie Shevlin. Radio 3, today, 7.30-8pm.

THE MANCHESTER ENTHUSIASTS: The first of a two-part play by John Ardren and his wife, Margaret O'Aray, which

examines the true story of the Rastafarian Co-operative, the first Irish agricultural commune founded in 1831 by an Anglo-Irish landowner, John Scott Vandeleur, in an attempt to quell a state of near rebellion among the peasantry of County Clare.

Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm; part two is at the same time on June 25.

FILM STAR: Launching a new series of profiles of screen idols, Alexander Walker, film critic of the *London Standard*, looks at the career of the outrageous Mae West and recalls a meeting with her at her Hollywood home. Radio 4, Thurs, 12.27-1pm.

PRIDE OF PLACE: In the second of the programmes on people and places, playwright and school teacher Robin Gandhiram offers a personal view of Belfast, trying to catch the shifting mood of a city which is often seen from the outside as a perpetual battle zone but where life, despite everything, tries to go on as normal. Radio 4, Thurs, 8.45-9.30pm.

LE SILVER BELL: A life of Sidney Bechet, the great soprano saxophonist and clarinetist who was the first jazz musician of eminence to be taken up by cultivated Europeans, particularly in France where he later made his home. Radio 3, Fri 7-8pm.

Other events

ON WHEELS AND WING: An exhibition of the celebration of Rolls-Royce, whose first car appeared in 1904. Every model made since then will be represented - more than 500 vehicles in all - and also featured are Rolls-Royce-powered aircraft - from Bristol to Spitfires and modern jets - both on the ground

and in a 1½-hour flying display. Duxford Airfield, near Cambridge (0223 833963), tomorrow. Gates open 8.30am. Adults £2.50, children £1.50, cars £2.

GROSVENOR HOUSE ANTIQUES FAIR: To celebrate the golden jubilee of the event, first held in 1834, every exhibitor has been asked to display a golden object, and the theme is also taken up in the loan display of the National Art Collections Fund, which includes two gold Marlborough ice pails. Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (499 6363). Opens Mon, 9-5.30pm; Tues until June 23 and June 25, 11am-5pm; June 24 and 26, 11am-5pm. Ends June 28. Admission £5.50, including handbook.

LOW VISIBILITY: An exhibition of caricatures and cartoons by Sir David Low (1891-1963) whose superb draughtsmanship and biting wit made him one of the foremost practitioners of his craft in the twentieth century. A New Zealander, Low came to this country in 1920 and worked successfully for *The Star*, the *Evening Standard*, the *Daily Herald* and the *Manchester Guardian*. Langton Gallery, 31 Langton Street, London SW10 (863 9150). Opens Wed, until July 14, Tues-Sat, 10am-1pm, 2-3pm.

DOUBLE BOOKING: Two important book fairs are being held in Bath on Fri and Sat, representing the largest ever gathering of antiquarian book dealers outside London. The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (South West branch) have their event at Beaufort Hotel, Fri 2.30-8pm and Sat 10am-5pm; the Association of Antiquarian Booksellers have theirs at the Assembly Rooms, Fri noon-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

THEATRE

Colbert back from roaring Twenties

Claudette Colbert is considerably better known in this country as a film actress than for her work on the stage, which is not surprising. She last appeared on the London stage in 1923 in a play called *The Barker*, so it is appropriate that her somewhat delayed return should be in a play written in the 1920s about the society of that time.

She joins Rex Harrison in a revival of Frederick Lonsdale's comedy *Aren't We All?* which opens at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, on Wednesday for a 20-week season. The 1920s were the most successful years for Lonsdale, a prolific playwright who at one time had three works running simultaneously in the West End.

Between 1915 and 1932 he wrote at least one play a year, but from then until his death in 1954, there were only five more productions, of which two were in America only. Public taste had moved on, away from his sophisticated comedies. He also wrote musical comedies, including the successful *The Wind of the Mountains*, but it is on comedies such as *The Last of Mrs Cheesey* (1925) and *On Approval* (1927) that this reputation rests.

Aren't We All?, directed by Clifford Williams, an associate director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was first put on in 1923, although it was based on a play written some 15 years earlier. "Lonsdale is remembered as a bit of a toff, who moved in high society, and *Aren't We All?* fits that image. But by the 1920s he had succeeded in his ambition to be

accepted by society. In 1908 he was an outsider looking in, and his play then was really an attack on the sort of society he later exposed. Even later, he took a slightly acid view of the aristocracy," Williams explains.

The plot has Margot (Nicola Pagett) returning from a trip to Egypt to find her husband Willie (Francis Matthews) having a bit of a fling with an actress. Immediately she has to put a brave face on it and pretend in public that all is well between the two of them.

"Another scene in high life avoided, Willie," she says bleakly afterwards. "It is a comedy, but it has a moral centre about fidelity and marriage. Finding her husband kissing an actress in a play in the 1920s is the equivalent of finding them in bed today, and she is entitled to be put out. So it is not out of date," Williams says.

He believes that if the play is done well it carries the audience along. "It is very much a theatre piece and does not read so well," he says. *Aren't We All?* looks at the idiocies of behaviour in our relationships, and the follow-on line in the play is "Aren't we all... bloody fools."

Rex Harrison, who plays Willie's father, the crusty old Lord Grenham, suggested that the play should be done. "He has a nose for snuffing out plays he wants to do," Williams says. Harrison and Claudette Colbert last acted together in 1981 when they performed in *The Kingfisher* at the Armanston Theatre in Los Angeles, and toured America. Harrison was



Aristocratic antic: Claudette Colbert with (from left) Francis Matthews, Ben Bazell, Timothy Peters

seen here last year as Captain Shotover in Shaw's *Heartbreak House*.

Williams finds Claudette Colbert quite amazing. "It is difficult to describe her. She could be any age between 40 and 60." (She is, in fact, much older than that.) "She plays an elderly romantic widow, and she manages to give off an air of sexuality." Not surprisingly, she gets her man in the end.

Aren't We All? is previewing now at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket (930 9823) at 7.30pm. Opens Wed at 7pm, then Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, and matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 3pm.

Openings

AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE: Chuck Mallett's new musical, with a company of six, is based on the life and works of songwriter Harold Arlen, responsible for an astonishing range of material from the musical score of *The Wizard of Oz* to "Stormy Weather", as well as the score of *A Star is Born*.

Commissioned by the theatre, directed by John Muirhead, with Mallett as musical director. The Mill at Sonning, Reading, Berkshire (0734 668000). Opens Tues at 8.15pm. Until July 14, Mon-Sat at 8.15pm; matinees Sat at 2pm.

THE ARCADIAN: Cyril Ornadel takes musical charge of a revival of a musical play which includes such songs as "Pipes of Pan" and

"Charming Weather". Stewart Trotter directs this period fantasy piece, which has music by Lionel Monckton and Howard Talbot, lyrics by Arthur Wing Pinero. Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road, Exeter (0392 54853). Opens Thurs at 8pm. Until Aug 4, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Wed (from July 11) at 4pm, Sat (from July 7) at 4pm. No matinee Aug 1.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Second of three productions in Regent's Park this summer with Berwick Kaler as Bottom, plus Alexandra Mathie, Richard Rees, Julia Seft in this play most suitably for all fresco presentation. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 (486 2431). Preview on Mon at 1.15pm. Opens Tues at 7.45pm, then Wed, Thurs and Fri at 7.45pm; matinees Wed and Thurs at 2.30pm.

Selected

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Collesse (828 2252). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Mon, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Animal Farm* (Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm).

David Mamet's menacing account of the shark-eat-sprat world of American real estate salesman has a resonance that spreads wide; a case including Jack Shepherd in top form do it justice.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Berkeley (828 6755/6881). Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 2pm and 7.30pm. Adrian Noble's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy.

PASSION PLAY Wyndham's (836 3028). Mon-Fri at

8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Surely the best comedy in London today, sad and dazlingly intricate. The 1981 play about unwilling adultery.

SERLEANT MUGGRAVE'S DANCE Old Vic (828 7816). Until June 30, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. With the formidable help of Max Wall, Eileen Atkins and Graham Crowden among a distinguished cast, Albert Finney (doubling as director and name part) brings John Arden's brutal and enigmatic modern classic back to haunting dramatic life.

WEST SIDE STORY Her Majesty's (930 6605). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm. Bernstein's classic 1950 musical, scrupulously and energetically revived with Jerome Robbins's original choreography.

DANCE

DUTCH NATIONAL BALLET Collesse (836 3161). Mon until June 23 at 7.30pm; matinees June 23 at 2.30pm.

The company's first visit to London since 1980 brings a programme made up entirely of works by Hans van Manen, mostly to piano music. *Piano Variations Nos 2-5* are to music by Prokofiev (Sarcars), Satie (*Trois Grienscenes*) and Debussy (*Poés and Exposed*). More music by Satie goes with *Portrait*, featuring a guest soloist, Pauline Daniels. On Mon, Fri and June 23 the programme also includes *Adagio Hammarikier* to music by Beethoven; that is replaced Tues - Thurs by *Situation*. A unique and remarkable programme.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE Mold, Theatre Chyd (0352 66114). Today at 2.15pm and 7.30pm. Nottingham, Royal (0522 472228). Mon until June 23 at 7.30pm, matinees Wed and June 23 at 2.15pm. Rudolf Nureyev's engagement as guest star for a special performance on June 23 (evening) is an indication of the ambition of Northern Ballet's *Gleaming Beauty*, but the production is also seeing with the company's own dancers at the other performances.

Christopher Bruce's *Concerto* are featured Mon - Wed with Robert North's *Entre des Agues*. Bruce's intimate *Peggs and North's Colour Movies* are given from Thurs with Frederick Ashton's *Capriol Suite* and *Five Brahms Waltzes*.

FESTIVAL BALLET Collesse (836 3161). Today at 3pm and 7.30pm. Two further performances of Glen Tetley's new *Pulcinella*, on a bill with Ronald Hynd's *The Sanguine Fan* and the Polovnian dances from *Prince Igor* complete the present London season. The company returns in late July for two weeks at the Dominion.

ROYAL BALLET Bristol, Hippodrome (0272 299444). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sheffield, The Big Top, Norfolk Park (0742 766665). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. The two Royal Ballet companies both complete regional seasons today. At Sheffield, the Sadler's Wells troupe offers *Swan Lake*, while in Bristol the orchestra from Covent Garden gives Ashton's *Scènes de ballet* and *A Month in the Country* with Fokine's *Firebird*.

BALLET RAMBERT Bristol, Royal (0272 243888). Mon - Wed at 7.15pm; Thurs, Fri at 7.45pm; and June 23 at 4pm and 7.45pm. Richard Alston's Monteverdi ballet, *Voices and Light Footsteps*, and

Out of Town

CHICHESTER: Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Forty Years On by Alan Bennett. Today, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm. In repertory with *Paul Eddington*, Annette Crosbie, Doris Hare and 20 Sussex schoolboys in the first major revival of a well-remembered comedy from the late 1960s. Directed by Patrick Gorman. Oh Kari! by George and Ira Gershwin and P. G. Wodehouse. Today at 2.30pm; Mon, Tues, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Jane Carr*, Michael Siberry, Geoffrey Hutchings, Josephine Blake, Myra Sands, Jeremy Hawk in a 1926 musical adapted by Tony Gels and Ned Sherrin. Ian Judge directs a tale of a rich brother and sister who use the family yacht for rum-running.

DORKING: Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre, Great Bookham, Surrey (0274 87223). *Messiah* for Messiaen. Opens Wed at 7.45pm, then Thurs and Fri at 7.45pm, June 23 at 3pm and 7.45pm. Opening production of the National Trust's charming garden theatre's thirty-third season, which extends only until July 8. Elsie Green directs.

FARNHAM: Redgrave Theatre, Brightwell (0222 716301). David and Jonathan by William Douglas Home. Until June 30, Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. World premiere run for a play about a bishop's intervention in a dramatic dispute which arises over the reading of wedding banns.

LEEDS: The Grand (0532 458351). Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. Until June 23, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm. Chris Bond directs the first touring production of a musical which won several awards in the West End in 1983. Rebecca Storm, Peter Capaldi and Mark McGarr as a mother and her twin sons, one of whom is given in infancy to her rich, childless employer.

NEWBURY: Watlington (0635 46044). *Wood Worn* by Fay Weldon. Until July 7, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed 30 at 4pm; gale (followed by a meal and dancing) July 7 at 6.30pm. British premiere run for a tale of a woman who wins the Nobel Prize for Literature, and how it affects her relationships and life.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0783 28232). *The Merchant of Venice*. Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Richard III*. Today, Mon, Wed, Thurs at 7.30pm; press night Tues at 7pm. In repertory with *Antony and Cleopatra*, with Patricia Routledge, Brian Blessed, Christopher Ravenscroft, in a new production directed by Bill Alexander.

The Other Place (0789 285623). *Golden Girls* by Louise Page. Today, Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm; press night Wed at 7pm. In repertory with *Promises, Promises*. Premiere production of a play about five women athletes chasing four places in the national relay team at the Olympics. Barry Kyle directs.

FILMS

Freelance at work in a quirky world

"By the way," says the narrator, "did you know there are emus on the Ile de France?" After watching *Sans Soleil*, Chris Marker's extraordinary new film, we know this and a whole lot more: we know about Japanese cat temples, Icelandic earthquakes, Tokyo department-store gimmicks, and women's faces in forgotten corners of Africa.

Images, anecdotes, philosophical musings, personal illusions and bizarre jokes tumble from the screen; they supposedly emanate from a fictional freelance cameraman, sending a cinematic message about his travels to an unidentified woman. The actual cameraman responsible is the Hungarian emigrant Sander Krasna, and the voice reading his letters belongs to the actress Alexandra Stewart; but everything we see and hear is filtered through Marker's quick, generous, fascinating mind.

Marker is French; he was born Christian Françoise Broche-Villeneuve. He fought with the Resistance, wrote poetry, and travelled widely; he first came to prominence in the late 1950s and early 1960s with highly personal documentaries (*Letter from Siberia*, *Cuba Sil*) and a stunning science-fiction short (*La Jetée*) composed

entirely of still photographs. Yet he has never achieved wide international fame.

After the political ferment of 1968, Marker's distance from conventional world cinema is crossed: he based himself inside the collective SLON, an acronym for Société de Lancement des Oeuvres Nouvelles, whose films, though challenging, only reached highly specialized audiences.

Now Marker has re-emerged, with a beguiling, witty kaleidoscope shown at festivals in Berlin, Locarno, Toronto and London. The British Film Institute gave *Sans Soleil* their annual award for the most original and imaginative film introduced to audiences at the National Film Theatre; it is only appropriate, therefore, that the film should tour the Institute's regional theatres throughout the summer. One only hopes the title is not prophetic.

Geoff Brown

Sans Soleil (no certificate) opens in London on June 22 at the ICA Cinema, The Mall, SW1 (030 2547). The regional tour includes Bristol (at the Watershed, from July 2), Edinburgh (Filmhouse, from July 15), Nottingham (New Cinema, from July 28), Birmingham (Triangle, from Aug 3), and Cambridge (Arts Cinema, from Aug 20).

Openings

ANGELO MY LOVE (15). Actor Robert Duval wrote, produced and directed this overbearing documentary-drama about the lives of New York gypsies. Angelo Evans took his first light as the eight-year-old hero. From Fri at the Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148), Odeon Kensington (602 6644).

THE RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE (15). A sixteenth-century French farmer returns to his village, only to find his identity questioned. Daniel Vigne's recreation of a famous historical incident won three French Academy awards. Fri at the Curzon (499 5707/8).

THE OSTERMAN WEEKEND (16). Sam Peckinpah's first film since *Convoy* in 1978; it's a nonsensical farce from Robert Ludlum's popular novel about CIA surveillance of a TV journalist's weekend party. From Fri at the Leicester Square Theatre (830 8252).

Selected

MAN OF FLOWERS (18). Screen on the Hill (435 3386). Unique, affecting, beautiful film from Dutch-born director Paul Cox, now resident in Australia. Norman Kaye stars as the middle-aged recluse threatened by loutish modern life (chiefly represented by Chris Hayward's important action of the film of sugar plantation workers in a Meritonic shanty town).

RUE CASES-NEGRES (PG). Chelsea Cinema (351 3742). Few current films offer as much human warmth as this captivating first feature by the West Indian director Euzhan Palay, describing the life of sugar plantation workers in a Meritonic shanty town.

TO OUR LOVES (15). Camden Plaza (485 2443). Brilliant, uncomfortable film from Maurice Pialat, acutely exploring emotional deprivation and the



Warning note: Danger threatens in The Osterman Weekend

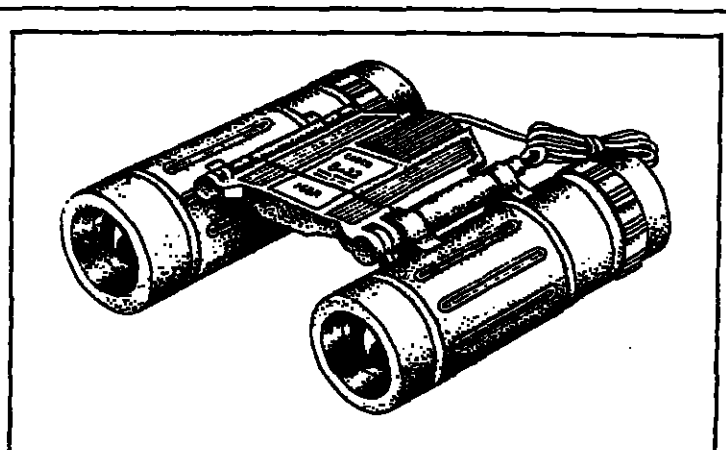
pincer grip of family life. Unknown actress Sandrine Bonnaire plays the teenage heroine.

SWANN IN LOVE (18). Lumiere (636 9561). Schindler's film rarely dips into Proust's novel sequence, but therein lies its success. Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but dubious Odette is conveyed with clarity, calm, exquisite photography, and a central performance from Jeremy Irons that expertly captures the melancholic elegance of Proust's bohemian Jew.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Life changes often and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Sport and radio: Peter Waymark; Auctions: Geraldine Norman; Theatre: Anthony Masters and Irving Wardle; Films: Geoff Brown; Dance: John Percival

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THE TIMES

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Messy tug of war over Lloyds & Scottish

The Lloyds & Scottish fricas between Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland group seems destined to remain a messy tale of protective banking folk to the end.

Yesterday was effectively the deadline imposed by Mr Norman Tebbit for a decision on whether he should refer the increase in Lloyds' stake in Royal from 16 to 21 per cent last December to a long, expensive and wholly pointless investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The threat of this, and Mr Tebbit's commendable desire to avoid a waste of public money on matters of principle of no practical interest, has produced a letter from Mr Brian Pitman of Lloyds agreeing to dispose of the extra shares within a "reasonable period" disclosed to the Bank of England and the Office of Fair Trading, but not to its Royal's shareholders. So the investigation is off.

The reason for this backtracking by Lloyds is that it is near to an agreement with Royal to buy out its stake in the jointly owned finance house Lloyds & Scottish. The December purchase was designed to put pressure on Royal to reach an agreement after protracted talks that had started with wide differences over price. Even now, the two sides are not able to announce a final agreement.

Even if they manage it in days, there will be a further delay to allow a tax-saving scheme of arrangement through the courts - soon to go on their summer recess. There are also a few outside L&S shareholders to be thought of.

Yet this Marmaduke Gingers style of tug-of-war over Lloyds & Scottish - indeed the whole shareholding relationship between the two clearing bank groups - has long been turned into an irrelevance by events.

Until Standard Chartered and the Hongkong Bank made their abortive bids for Royal, both Royal and Lloyds seemed content to keep equal stakes in the finance house with a substantial public shareholding. Sensing a threat, Lloyds moved in the bid confusion to strengthen its position to a majority holding by buying all the publicly held L&S shares in the market. When the bids were ruled out of court by the famous Scottish ring fence decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Lloyds decided to make the best of it and increase its stake in the lucrative, tax-favoured leasing business by buying out its partner.

The protracted talks, notable for an unbridgeable difference in the two sides' valuations of L&S, and which led to the bullying move by Lloyds last December, were rendered as moot by Mr Nigel Lawson. He removed the tax advantages of leasing in the Budget and made the whole row an historical irrelevance. This, rather than negotiating skill, has finally brought the two sides closer together.

The logic of Lloyds remaining 16.4 per cent stake in Royal over which it has made neither decisions or undertakings, remains equally obscure.

It was first the inheritance of a larger stake in one of the banks which merged to form the Royal Bank Group. In the days of bank mergers, it became a strategic stake (like Barclays holding in Bank of Scotland), to give Lloyds first choice in any Royal takeover. When Lloyds eventually made its move, it was blackballed by Lord Richardson at the Bank of England who fixed Royal up with Standard Chartered instead. Royal's continued independence is due to the Monopolies Commission rather than its own management or Lloyds stake.

Thereafter, Lloyds might have hoped to swap its stake for Royal's William & Glyn's branches in England. But this was stymied by the internal merger of Royal's constituent banks. What use is this non-consolidated stake now? It is to be hoped that the Commission decision will stand. Certainly, inhabitants of Manchester and Liverpool, who saw their local banks

gobbled up, will think the Scots lucky to have their own. It has taken Lloyds and Citibank years of square dancing to sort out their strategically pointless interests in Grindlays, now to join the ANZ Banking group. Does Lloyds have so little use for the money that it can afford to maintain its tangle with Royal so long?

European Ferries sails into storm

This weekend could be critical in the life of European Ferries, and the strange saga of its shareholders' perks. Shareholders, it will be recalled, are being asked to approve a scheme of arrangement which would turn the perk shares into preference shares, leaving cross-channel trippers still qualifying for their discount, but minus votes. Full voting rights would reside in the equity, which presumably is of more interest to the institutions.

Votes on the scheme should arrive by next Friday. But the small shareholder normally makes his corporate decisions in the garden over the weekend.

At play now must be the corporate identity of the entire group. Since the proposed scheme of arrangement was announced, small shareholders' passions have predictably been whipped up via the European Ferries Shareholders' Action Group, which is plainly voting a decisive no to the plan.

Without daring to presume on the trend among the proxies landing on S. G. Warburg's doorstep, it seems reasonable to assume that activists currently outweigh the less committed shareholders, some of whom presumably are even now on the high seas between Dover and Calais.

The merchant bank remains tight-lipped about how voting is going but reiterates earlier comments that a vote against the scheme of arrangement must ultimately be a vote against the concession itself. The logic behind this analysis looks sound. European Ferries is a large company with an annual turnover of about £350m, running a tough cross-channel ferry business. It has admitted that a hitherto attractive shareholders' perk is now too expensive to service.

Should the scheme not go through next Friday, the group must react - if only to avoid looking vulnerable to competitors.

Cuts in the peak sailings concession? A rise in the number of shares qualifying for the concession? A drop in the discount? The group, presumably, would be ready to countenance almost any remedial action in order to restore corporate confidence. Shareholders have been known to win the battle but lose the war before now.

The enterprising choice for Walker

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, and his advisers will be doing their last-minute thinking this weekend about the flotation of Enterprise Oil. The issue is scheduled to be launched on Tuesday, and it will take something big, nasty and unforeseen for it to be delayed. The chief surprise will be if Mr Walker opts for the politically risky course of a fixed price offer rather than a tender.

It is long odds that a tender will be chosen; despite the market's dislike of the method, it still continues to be highly regarded in Whitehall. After Enterprise management's barnstorming tour round the City's lunch tables, the company has not lacked exposure, so the prospectus is unlikely to contain much in the way of surprises.

Kleinwort Benson and the Department of Energy will be looking for the tender to net them something upwards of £425m. The chief interest lies in how far the good impression the Enterprise team have made in most parts of the City will allow the company to shade its yield below 5 per cent.

Jessel agrees to improved bid from Mercantile House

By William Kay, City Editor

Mercantile House, the financial group, has been forced into the rare step of increasing the terms of a previously agreed bid to save its strategic takeover of the discount house Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett. The Times disclosed yesterday that the deal was being renegotiated in the wake of the recent fall in the Mercantile House share price.

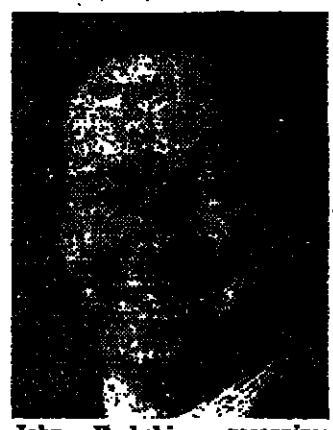
The new offer is three Mercantile shares plus £1.50 cash for every 10 Jessel shares. As an alternative, Jessel shareholders can opt to exchange up to half their holdings for Mercantile floating rate loan notes 1989, at the rate of 110p of notes for every Jessel share.

The main additional element is the £1.50 cash which will cost Mercantile between £1.5m and £3m, depending on how many Jessel shares are exchanged for the loan notes. They have been upgraded, in that Mercantile

has promised to seek a listing for them on the stock market. Originally they were to stay unlisted, making them harder to sell.

The consent of the Takeover Panel has been required to extend the closing date for the loan note alternative, along with the share exchange offer, from June 18 to July 2. In the light of the changes, any Jessel investor who has already accepted the first bid can now change his or her mind about the mixture of shares and loan notes.

Mr Michael Toynbee, chairman, said yesterday: "The board of Jessel, Toynbee and Gillett are unanimous in recommending the revised offer from Mercantile House. I have personally been in favour of the whole concept of the deal from the beginning and am particularly looking forward to work-



John Barkshire recognizes value of offer is lower

ing with Mr John Barkshire, the chairman of Mercantile House. The deal also has the backing of Kleinwort Benson and the M and C unit trust group, who between them account for 15 per cent of the Jessel equity.

The shakeout in the stock

market is to blame for the higher offer. When the deal was announced on May 14, Mercantile shares were 368p. Last night they were 262p, up 10p on relief that it is still going through.

Mr Barkshire explained: "Mercantile recognizes that the value of the all-share offer for Jessel on the basis of the current market price of Mercantile House shares is significantly lower now than when terms were agreed."

The terms of the recommended offer for Jessel's preference shares are unchanged at 80p cash, but have been extended to the new deadline of July 2.

By the close of business on Thursday, acceptances had been received for 6.76 per cent of Jessel ordinary shares, and 30.8 per cent of the preference.

The new share exchange values each Jessel share at 93p, compared with the original level of 110p, so it is a compromise.

Industrial output falls by 1.5%

By Peter Wilson-Smith

However, the CSO said that, excluding the coal and coke industry, industrial output showed little change in the latest three months compared with three months earlier and was still 5 per cent above the level of a year ago.

In April alone, the index of output of the production industries, which includes energy and manufacturing industry, fell by an estimated 0.2 per cent to 101.7, after a decline of 1 per cent the previous month.

Production of the energy industries fell by 1.8 per cent in April and was 4.2 per cent lower in the three months to April compared with the preceding three months, reflecting first the miners' overtime ban and then the strike which began in the middle of March.

Manufacturing industry increased output by a provisional 0.4 per cent in April and the increase in March has now been revised from 0.5 to 1.2 per cent. But manufacturing output in the three months to April was still 0.5 per cent lower in the three months before.

Normally the Government expects that three-month figures give a better indication of the trend. But officials believe the 0.5 per cent decline is misleading because of an erratic jump in production around the turn of the year, and the Government remains confident the underlying trend in the manufacturing sector is still steadily upwards.

Compared with the same period a year ago, manufacturing output still showed a rise of 4 per cent in the latest three months.

Signs that the US economy may be slowing emerged from US industrial production figures showing a 0.4 per cent rise in May after seasonal adjustments. The May increase, the 18th consecutive monthly rise, compared with a revised April increase of 1.1 per cent.

Fightback by Booker McConnell

By Philip Robinson

Booker McConnell, the agricultural, health and food group, yesterday fired its first broadside against the unwanted £230m takeover bid from Mr Alec Monk's Dee Corporation.

Mr Michael Caine, Booker's chairman, describes the bid as "unwelcome and totally inadequate" and adds that Dee has nothing to contribute to the management of agriculture and health products, two of its fastest growing businesses.

Mr Monk, Dee's chairman, has said that his team could manage the Booker business better than the incumbent management. Mr Caine tells shareholders



Alec Monk: £36m spent on stake in Booker

in a formal circular: "Only in food distribution does Dee have any relevant experience. But a takeover by Dee would destroy the current balance of Booker's business between wholesaling and specialist retailing."

Mr Monk has spent close to £36m buying a 15 per cent stake. However, Dee is prevented from buying further shares at the moment and includes no cash alternative in the terms of its offer. Dee is putting up three of its own shares plus 400p worth of 10 per cent convertible loan stock for every 10 Booker shares.

Mr Caine says that that is not enough for a company whose agricultural business profits rose 40 per cent compound in the past three years and continues to grow, which has health products that can show a compound growth rate of 27 per cent over almost a decade, and a food distribution division which is substantially increased its profits from a low point of 1982.

Chinese investment unnerves Hongkong

From John Lawless, Hongkong

China's Ever Bright Industrial Company has announced that it has reached agreement with Burroughs, the United States computer group, to open two factories, one in Hongkong and another in China, to make microcomputers.

This is the latest in a series of deals negotiated by Ever Bright which is backed by the communist regime in Peking and which avows that one of its main purposes since arriving in the British colony just over a year ago is to "maintain the stability and prosperity of Hongkong."

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Dong Chuan, Ever Bright's deputy general manager, also announced the formation of a new company with the Japanese architectural engineering firm Kumagai. It is to extend Peking's urban rail system, as well as develop several other projects elsewhere in China, particularly in warehousing and ports.

He also said that Marubeni, the Japanese trading firm, has a new general cooperation agreement with the colony.

Kumagai worked on what is now the smoothly-running mass transit underground railway system in Hongkong and has obviously been rewarded with new contracts in China.

However, from his 39th floor offices overlooking Hongkong's harbour, Mr Dong makes it absolutely clear that his company is based in the colony of which it claims to retain sovereignty in 1997 to enable any number of foreign companies to do deals.

Ever Bright is run, in fact, by a man who openly declares himself to be "a capitalist" operating on Peking's behalf - Mr Wang Guangying. Mr Wang

is the Hongkong-in-law of the late Chinese president, Liu Shao-chi.

He refuses to disclose who is providing the finances for Ever Bright's wide range of deals, saying: "When you meet a girl, you do not ask her age, and when you meet a gentleman, you do not ask how much money is in his pocket." But the business community in Hongkong has no doubts that he is Peking-funded. "He reports directly to the Chinese premier, Zhao Ziyang, he says, and as vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, he claims a position higher than a minister."

Mr Wang, aged 64, opened an address at the very much upmarket Hongkong Rotary Club with the words "fa tsai, fa tsai". The colony's businessmen do not usually need a second invitation to "get rich, get rich". But local businessmen remain nervous about what will happen when the leases run out. Mr Wang is back in China this week for the opening ceremony of the Great China Hotel.

He stresses that the Chinese communists want Hongkong's free enterprise style to remain for at least 50 years after the British give it up in 1997. "One can do a lot of business in the next 63 years," he told the Hongkong Younger Managers Club. While welcoming the short-term propaganda, some of the older heads, however, worry that Ever Bright may be the start of an effective economic takeover of Hongkong by China. And note that Mr Wang has disclosed that China already has US\$4 billion invested here, a figure which the Hongkong government itself did not know.

Trading curbs ruled out

By David Young

Protectionist measures to support British industry were again ruled out last night by Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, in a speech to engineering employers in the heart of the Midlands motor industry.

Mr Rees said that the open trading system had served the world "fairly well". He told the West Midlands Association of Motoring Employers in Birmingham: "I must emphasize that any relapse into protectionism would condemn the United Kingdom - and the world - to stagnation, or at best slow growth."

"I recognize that there are acute sensitivities over this question in the West Midlands. These are not easy problems to solve. There are bound to be conflicts of interest."

Mr Rees said that the Government's general approach was to allow market forces to operate freely to decide the scale of output, trade and employment in different industrial sectors.

He said: "A very wide range of policies have been adopted - privatization, the abolition of controls and regulation, tackling monopolies and distortions in the tax system."

BAe shares jump 12p

The shares of British Aerospace, which is now the centre of intense bid speculation, continued to climb yesterday as the rest of the stock market fell.

They rose by a further 19p at their best, before easing, to close 12p up on the day, at 358p. Dealers reported heavy one-way trade in the stock with good quality buying.

Some expect a full takeover bid from GEC at 410p to arrive in the next fortnight. British Aerospace shares have been up to 401p and were 380p on the day Thomson-EMI announced it was interested in making a bid.

However, these talks were broken off three days ago, clearing the way for a full bid from GEC.

Lord Weinstock, GEC's chief, has been under pressure for some time to spend the group's £1.5 billion "cash mountain".

Stock market report, page 24

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1040.1 down 3.7 (high: 1040.1; low: 1027.6)
FT Index: 815.8 down 0.4
FT 100: 78.92 up 0.09
FT All Share: N/A
Bargains: 19,710
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 102.78 down 0.53
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 332.37 down 2.78
Amsterdam: 168.4 down 1.9
Sydney: AO Index 653.0 down 8.9
Paris: CAC Index 167.0 down 2.5
Zurich: S&K General 295.50 down 1.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3780 down 80pts
Index 79.5 unchanged
DM 3.7775 up 0.0075
FF 11.60 up 0.0075
Yen 320.75 down 0.25
Dollar Index 131.7 up 0.6
DM 2.7400 up 0.0205
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3780
Dollar DM 2.7420
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.591891
SDR £0.732252

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9, 9%
Finance houses base rate 8%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
1 month interbank 9% - 9 1/4%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 1 1/4% - 1 1/2%
3 month DM 5 1/4% - 5 1/2%
3 month FF 1 3/4% - 1 3/8%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 11%
Treasury bond 100% - 100 1/2%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period May 2 to June 5, 1984 inclusive: 9.516 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$873.90 pm \$368
close \$368.50-\$368 (267-267.75)
New York (latest): \$368.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$381.38150 (\$275.75-276.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$86.50-\$87.50 (\$62.75-63.50)
Excludes VAT

Rush for Etam shares

By Jeremy Warner

Stock market investors have put up more than £251m in the hope of acquiring shares in Etam, the women's wear retailer being floated by County Bank and Simon & Coates, the stockbroker.

More than 51.8 million applications were received for a total of 2 million shares guaranteeing the flotation of a healthy premium when dealings begin next Thursday. The offer for sale was around 20 times oversubscribed.

County Bank was offering 13.1 million of the company's shares for sale at 95p each and investors applied in large

numbers after the pricing of the offer was judged to be pitched at a low level by many outside observers.

Etam is the second County Bank offer for sale to be heavily oversubscribed this month.

Other than employees whose applications are being allotted in full, only those applying for 100,000 Etam shares or more are guaranteed an allocation. There will be ballots for several categories.

The flotation puts a price tag of around £50m on the 108-store retailing group

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chloride up £14m but no dividend

Chloride, the British battery manufacturer, has lifted pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 to £200,000 to £14m. However, the company has not paid dividend and arrears on preference dividends now stand at £5.6m.

Sir Michael Edwards, Chloride chairman, said: "The level of profit is not satisfactory and we are not satisfied with the cover sheet. Nevertheless the cover has been hefty."

He also conceded that the suits were unlikely to satisfy a shareholder action group which was set up last year to force the company to resume dividend payments and allow shareholders a greater say in running the company's affairs.

The turnover showed only a marginal increase from £78.9m up to £79.9m.

J. W. SKEAR & SON, the toy and game company which likes Scribble with, has turned pre-tax loss of £247,000 into a pre-tax profit of £239,000 for the year to December 31 last. Turnover slipped from £12.37m to £7.08m. A final dividend of 1p is to be paid against a nominal 0.1p in 1982.

Temple, page 24

£6.2m offer by Grovebell

By Our City Staff

Grovebell Group, a garage and investment company, yesterday launched a £6.2m takeover bid for Marshall's Universal, a vehicle distribution group twice its size.

Mr Vasant Advani, Grovebell chairman, said: "Parts of our business will fit with ours and we can make better use of some of their assets which are underutilized."

Grovebell is offering 11 of its

own shares for every three Marshall shares. Taking Grovebell at 14 1/2p, down 1/2p yesterday, the share offer values Marshall shares at 51.3p.

Stratham Duff Stoop, acting for Grovebell is offering to buy Marshall shares for 42p cash for a limited period. Stratham is also stockbrokers to Esal (Commodities), which owns 18 per cent of Marshall's Universal.

Decision nears on \$300m loan for Argentina

US plays down debt deadline

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Treasury could reactivate the offer later. Treasury sources said that it had been decided not to extend the loan deadline unless Argentina changed its headline negotiating position with the International Monetary Fund on a new economic stimulus programme.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the American central bank, and Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said it would not be a decision on the American government chose to extend for a third time yesterday's deadline.

"We have got until midnight to decide," Mr Regan said yesterday. Even if the extension were denied, he said, the

Treasury could reactivate the offer later.

Treasury sources said that it had been decided not to extend the loan deadline unless Argentina changed its headline negotiating position with the International Monetary Fund on a new economic stimulus programme.

Other Administration officials said yesterday that a decision on the extension would send an important signal to debtor nations and commercial banks.

The 11-bank syndicate negotiating with Argentina on its \$45 billion (£32 billion) debt met yesterday to consider whether

to extend new loans to the country to pay overdue interest. Banking sources said if the Treasury did not extend the deadline, commercial lenders would be even more reluctant to agree to easier terms for Argentina and other debtor nations.

Meanwhile, Mr Volcker said in Congressional testimony that even if Argentina missed a June 30 deadline on \$500m of overdue interest owed banks, the sums involved were relatively small and would not rock the banking system even though the second quarter earnings of some big banks would be reduced significantly.

ISC International Signal & Control Group PLC

Preliminary Results for 1983/84

	1984 \$000s	1983 \$000s
Turnover	207,322	107,480
Profit before taxation	28,159	15,096

The Chairman, Mr. James Guerin, comments:

- All Divisions made excellent progress.
- Marguardt met expectations.
- Group order book totals \$330 million which gives great confidence for the current year.

The above financial information is an abridged version of the Group's full accounts which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies and in respect of which the report of the auditors was unqualified.

International Signal & Control Group PLC
England: 17a Curzon Street, London W1Y 7FE
USA: 3700 Electronics Way, PO Box 3040, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604/3040.

MONEY MARKETS

Discount houses had to face a shortage that proved a good deal larger than they had been expecting, and credit became tight.

Houses were able to take money quite readily as cheaply as 3 1/2 per cent in the early stages, but by the end of the morning they were encountering tougher conditions with money no longer responsive to their bids at 9 per cent or 9 1/2 per cent.

The interbank market opened

on 8 1/2 per cent to 8 3/4 per cent range, but as the morning wore on and the shortage made itself felt, by lunchtime it was up to 9 1/2 per cent to 9 3/4 per cent. For the first part of the afternoon a rate of 9 1/2 per cent to 9 3/4 per cent held pretty solidly, but by mid-afternoon the rate had firmed at between 20 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent, which ruled until late trading established the 10 1/2 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent range and led to a close of around 10 per cent.

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	This Plan	Building Society
Year 1	11,519	9,601
Year 2	15,453	9,277
Year 3	16,320	9,132
Year 4	24,004	9,009
Year 5	28,499	8,803
Year 6	46,779	8,425
Year 7	53,745	8,004

To find out more, complete and return the coupon without delay.

N.B. It should be remembered that unit values can fall as well as rise. While past performance cannot necessarily be taken as a guide to the future, the skills of the management group involved are clearly well above average.

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Please contact me with details of your recommended investment for high monthly income.

Name _____

Address _____

County _____ Tel No _____

Present Income £ _____ Date of Birth _____ Tax Rate _____

Lump sum amount available for investment £ _____

Amount available for regular savings £ _____ per year/month

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REED STENHOUSE GIBBS



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Debenhams sets record in stampede for shares

By Michael Clark

Renewed bid whispers lifted Debenhams, the department stores group, to new heights yesterday as the clamour for shares turned into a stampede.

Dealers reported strong demand for new time amid talk of a bid of 250p a share next account. At one stage, the shares hit a high of 194p, but profit taking reduced this to 188p by the close — a net rise on the day of 8p. This values the entire group at £270m.

The stockbroker E. B. Savory Millin was said to have led the buying spree, picking up more than 1 million shares first thing. But Mr Robert Edith, senior partner at Savory, said: "I am not aware of that. I'm pretty convinced it's not us."

Sears Holdings, the Selfridges to Liffey & Skinner stores group, has often been tipped as the most likely contender to make a bid. But Mr Leonard Salmer, chairman of Sears, again underlined his position with the comment: "We are definitely not interested in Debenhams."

So the market is now placing its bets on an approach from one of the big American retail chains. But a spokesman for Debenhams, who was asked if the board was aware of any bid approaches, said: "We have no indication at all."

On Monday, Debenhams is due to sign a trading agreement with Mr Phil Harris's Harris Queensway, which has resulted in the formation of a new trading subsidiary and left Debenhams holding a small stake in Queensway, 2p lower at 170p.

Elsewhere, share prices staged a strong recovery on the last day of the account helped by selective support. The FT Index, which was showing a 13.6 fall at 10am after the

Government deficit at Portsmouth, recovered to close a net 0.4 down at 815.8. Dealers reported a good level of turnover and said there were signs of some money flowing back into equities from the institutions.

The rally was made all the more impressive by the continued weakness on Wall Street.

The better-than-expected retail sales figures gave a boost to gilts which held on to early rises of 1/2% in long. Sentiment was also helped by hopes of some good economic news out of America over the weekend. The FT Government Securities Index closed 0.09 up at 78.92.

Shares of Rugby Portland Cement tried to buck the trend yesterday helped by speculative support, but after starting the day at 100 1/2p the price eventually closed at 99 1/2p — a net fall of 1 1/2p on the day. Word in the market suggests that somebody is trying to build up a stake and may already own 2 to 3 per cent of the shares.

Among the leaders another 2 million to 3 million shares in Distillers, the White Horse and Johnnie Walker Scotch whisky companies, changed hands as the price raced ahead 19p to 309p. That is a two-day rise of 30p.

Brokers said much of the turnover was the followthrough from Thursday, but there was evidence of increased overseas support.

The company has long been tipped as a takeover target and speculation has been heightened by confirmation that GEC has bought 3 per cent of the shares. The American tobacco giant, Philip Morris, has often been tipped as a possible bidder and at last night's close Distillers was valued at more than £1,000m.

British Car Auctions is in bullish mood over its American expansion which now includes the US-quoted Sandgate Corp. For the year to next month the US should contribute about \$4.5m to group profits, compared with \$2.2m. Next year this should rise to \$12m. Last year, BCA's group profits came out at \$5.8m. The price eased 1p to 93p.

The bid rumour at Fleet Holdings, owner of the Daily

Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star, refuses to budge. New-time buying lifted the shares another 3p to 186p, after 180p, just 4p short of the year's high. Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCC remains the market's favourite to make a bid, although the Australian entrepreneur Mr Robert Holmes à Court holds 10 per cent of the shares. Dealers say the bid could come next week.

On the bid front, William Leech jumped 9p to 155p after shareholders received a letter from the board of C. H. Beazer urging them to accept the offer. Beazer points out that the offer provides them with an increase of 2p in their capital investment. Beazer shares lost 4p to 358p.

The Irish oil exploration stocks attracted renewed attention with Bryson Oil shaking off an early markdown after news of a £1.4m rights issue. The shares which opened at 62 1/2p hit 59 1/2p on one stage before closing at 63 1/2p — a net gain on the day of 2p. Aram Energy lost an early 2p to close unchanged at 47 1/2p, though Atlantic Resources scored a 2p rise at 70p. But Eglinton dipped 3p to 22 1/2p, after 21 1/2p, and Fict lost a similar amount at 160p, after 145p.

Gold shares had a bad day as the bullion price hit its lowest level in nearly six months. Heavy selling internationally left it \$6.25 down at \$368.75 an ounce, having hit \$367.00 earlier in the day, as the dollar continued to go from strength on the foreign exchange.

As a result dealers marked gold shares lower. Losses were widespread among the heavy-weight producers.

Hartbeest lost \$3 to \$81 1/2, Klod \$1 1/2 to \$55 1/2, President Brand \$2 1/2 to \$44, President Steyn \$2 1/2 to \$53 1/2, Randfontein \$2 1/2 to \$51 1/2 and Vaal Reefs \$1 1/2 to \$129 1/2. At the cheaper end, Leslie Gold lost 20 cents at 323 cents, Lorraine 26 cents at 530 cents, Marleval 17 cents at 370 cents, South African Land Exploration 30 cents at 643 cents and Walskelt 20 cents at 208 cents.

Equity turnover on June 14, was £237.824m (15,566 deals). The number of British and Irish stocks traded was 146.4 million. Gilt bargains totalled 2,922.

The shares were up 4p yesterday to 36p and with no

TEMPUS

Chloride sparks up but misses payout

After four years of decline and dogged recovery, Chloride has nudged nervously towards the realms of respectability. The pretax profit of £14m was enough to justify any dividend payments. The arrears on the preference shares now stands at £5.6m gross.

While the management has a right to be pleased with the performance there is no room for complacency. Chloride knows that it should be producing an operating return of 20 per cent on net assets. In 1983/84 it returned 12.3 per cent, and although this was a vast improvement on the previous year's 7.4 per cent there is still a long way to go.

The great problem for Chloride is that it has very little hope of improving its performance by volume gains. Markets, particularly for car batteries, remain depressed and highly competitive so the only opportunity for increased profits comes from the continued reduction of costs base.

Chloride's new management team, having out the obvious savings from the cost base, must now chip and prise away the more elusive nuggets. Productivity still needs improving and there is scope for further increases in management efficiency.

Chloride needs to make those savings so that it can cover its costs and generate the cash flow to bring down net borrowings, which stood at £67.9m at the year-end. This is a reduction of £16.6m, although more than half came from divestments. Gearing also fell dutifully from 89 per cent to 71 per cent. With the interest bill running at £10.2m in 1983/84, however, it still takes a substantial chunk out of operating profit and it must be reduced if the company is to reinstate dividend payments.

In the long term the Chloride management would like to see the company making pretax profits of £30m on its present assets base. If the savings can be found and the product development programme brings the benefits that the investment justifies, this target can be achieved.

The shares were up 4p yesterday to 36p and with no

immediate prospect of a dividend payment they make an interesting recovery stock.

J W Spear & Sons

After the disappointment of seeing their dividend all but vanish last year shareholders in J W Spear & Sons, the Scrabble company, will be cheered by 1p pay out for 1983. It is a signal that the company is not ignoring them and they will be rewarded further when profits justify a dividend increase.

The pretax profits of £239,000 for 1983 from a loss of £287,000 in 1982 indicates that the brief period of retrenchment is now behind the company. However, Spear will be operating from a much smaller base in future, concentrating on the sector of the toys and games market it knows best.

It is a prudent course of action. Although it will not bring dramatic recovery it should ensure survival in an industry which has taken a battering. It will, however, be some time before shareholders see the 6p dividend they were used to.

Building societies

Home loan liquidity is now forecast to fall by four percentage points this year, according to the annual building society meeting at Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The estimate could be dynamite in the context of the present gilt-edged funding programme.

A due to the potential effects of the forecast emerged this week, when building societies released details of May advances. During May £2.3 billion was lent to home-buyers. But net receipts came to just £482m, roughly half the January net inflow.

The societies by continuing to lead are maintaining part of the happy symmetry which obtained throughout most of last year. The societies ran ultra-competitive rates, which attracted peak inflows of about £1 billion a month.

Highly tax efficient lending, with fewer questions than usual asked about the ultimate destiny of the loans, stoked up the macro-aggregates by boost-

ing consumers' expenditure. And the building societies were also willing buyers of gilt-edged stock, which they purchased at an annualized rate of about £3 billion.

Building society rates have been forced back into line with the rest of the financial sector. Inflows have fallen and the societies plan to make up the shortfall by running down their short-term assets.

On a very crude basis, they will now be net sellers of gilts, rather than buyers of stock. According to the Phillips & Drew, gilt analysts team, headed by Mr Stephen Lewis, the movement might dispose of about £500m.

The P&O assumptions are based on an estimated rise in assets during 1984 of £25 billion to £115 billion; a drop in the liquidity ratio of four points to 16 per cent; and continued preference by the societies for short-term non-gilt assets.

The scale of the £3 1/2 billion downsizing will automatically increase the authorities' difficulties in running the funding programme. Who will replace the societies as willing buyers of stock?

But the underlying situation is even more complex. The Inland Revenue's decision to tax building societies as traders, announced on February 23, locks them into existing holdings to some extent, because the societies will be reluctant to sell and realize portfolio losses. But if the market recovers, they will in theory be heavy sellers of recently acquired stock.

In the context of the yield curve, this means that a fairly large supplier of stock now exists two years either side of the 1990 area. This realization in turn should steepen the yield curve at about that area, and exaggerate existing trends, which see the yield curve peaking about the 1994 region.

If the Government Broker is forced away from his favourite funding area, where will he tap next? The question is almost unanswerable.

The much-rumoured decision by the US authorities to scrap their withholding tax on bonds will, if true, transform investor preference.

MONTAGU

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD

11 Devonshire Square, EC2M 4TR, 01-623 4273

Daily Dealing Prices as at 15th June 1984

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Gold & Precious Metals	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Equity (All)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Equity (UK)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Equity (Foreign)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Fixed Income	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Fixed Income (UK)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Fixed Income (Foreign)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Real Estate	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Real Estate (UK)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Real Estate (Foreign)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Money Market	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Money Market (UK)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0
Money Market (Foreign)	48.4	48.3	48.2	48.1	48.0

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week

Unit Trust	Current Price	Change	Unit Trust	Current Price	Change
Authorized Unit Trusts			Authorized Unit Trusts		
1. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	11. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
2. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	12. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
3. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	13. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
4. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	14. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
5. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	15. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
6. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	16. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
7. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	17. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
8. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	18. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
9. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	19. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
10. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	20. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
21. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	22. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
23. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	24. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
25. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	26. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
27. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	28. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
29. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	30. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
31. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	32. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
33. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	34. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
35. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	36. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
37. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	38. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
39. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	40. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
41. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	42. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
43. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	44. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
45. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	46. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
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59. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	60. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
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63. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	64. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
65. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	66. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
67. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	68. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
69. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	70. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
71. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	72. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
73. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	74. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
75. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	76. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
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81. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	82. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
83. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	84. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
85. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	86. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
87. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	88. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
89. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	90. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
91. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	92. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
93. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	94. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
95. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	96. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
97. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	98. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05
99. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05	100. Alliance Unit Trust	10.50	+0.05

هكذا من الأخبار

s up
Out

IFT-OFF FOR S & C profits

By Jonathan Clare

By time the US space goes up it relies on 44 national control jobs supplied by the London-based International Signal & Control, based in Lancaster, Lancashire. IS&C's rocket-ship last year still jumped hefty \$13.1m (£9.3m) to \$1.1bn (£750m), helped by good results in the international division last August's \$43m acquisition of Marquardt Company, a defence specialist.

IS&C remains secretive about its operations but says it is a contractor to 11 countries, including the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union, the East and West.

The biggest single customer got a quote in London in 1982 because the sure requirements of the US Navy and the US Air Force would have violated the contractual relationship with some of its customers.

IS&C got a quote in London in 1982 because the sure requirements of the US Navy and the US Air Force would have violated the contractual relationship with some of its customers.

Scottish Life investments

Scottish Life Investments Insurance Funds

Fund	1983	1984
Arbuthnot	100.0	100.0
Capital	100.0	100.0
Guinness	100.0	100.0
Imperial	100.0	100.0
Liberty	100.0	100.0
London	100.0	100.0
Manx	100.0	100.0
Midland	100.0	100.0
North	100.0	100.0
South	100.0	100.0
West	100.0	100.0
York	100.0	100.0

Scottish Life
Andrew Square, Edinburgh
Telephone: 031-225 2211

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
Bank of Scotland	9%
Barclays	9%
Bank of England	9%
Bank of Ireland	9%
Bank of Montreal	9%
Bank of New York	9%
Bank of Paris	9%
Bank of Rome	9%
Bank of Spain	9%
Bank of Sweden	9%
Bank of Switzerland	9%
Bank of the Netherlands	9%
Bank of Belgium	9%
Bank of Luxembourg	9%
Bank of Greece	9%
Bank of Turkey	9%
Bank of India	9%
Bank of China	9%
Bank of Japan	9%
Bank of Korea	9%
Bank of Hong Kong	9%
Bank of Singapore	9%
Bank of Malaysia	9%
Bank of Brunei	9%
Bank of Indonesia	9%
Bank of Philippines	9%
Bank of Thailand	9%
Bank of Vietnam	9%
Bank of Cambodia	9%
Bank of Laos	9%
Bank of Myanmar	9%
Bank of Sri Lanka	9%
Bank of Maldives	9%
Bank of Seychelles	9%
Bank of Mauritius	9%
Bank of Reunion	9%
Bank of French Polynesia	9%
Bank of New Caledonia	9%
Bank of Wallis and Futuna	9%
Bank of French Southern Territories	9%
Bank of French Guiana	9%
Bank of French Polynesia	9%
Bank of French Southern Territories	9%
Bank of French Guiana	9%

J. Halstead fights off bid with prediction of record figures

The board of the James Halstead Group is backing its prediction of record figures for 1984.

The board of the James Halstead Group is backing its prediction of record figures for 1984. The group's operations are continuing on a successful course. The annual meeting was held at the group's headquarters in London on June 15, 1984. The group's operations are continuing on a successful course. The annual meeting was held at the group's headquarters in London on June 15, 1984.

In brief

UNITED SPRING & STEEL: Half-year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £13.4m (£12.3m). Profit £2.3m (£2.1m). No dividend (same). Group profit likely at year-end.

ALLIED PLANT GROUP: Results for 1983. Turnover £13.4m (£12.3m). Profit £2.3m (£2.1m). No dividend (same). Group profit likely at year-end.

BRITISH STEEL SPECIALISTS: Half-year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £13.4m (£12.3m). Profit £2.3m (£2.1m). No dividend (same). Group profit likely at year-end.

CONTINUOUS STATIONERY: Year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £4.1m (£4.2m). Profit £0.8m (£0.9m). No dividend (same).

PICOT, FELLOWSHIP: Half-year to April 30, 1984. Turnover £1.2m (£1.1m). Profit £0.2m (£0.3m). No dividend (same).

HENRY WIGFALL & SONS: Year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £4.1m (£4.2m). Profit £0.8m (£0.9m). No dividend (same).

KWIL-FIT (TYRES AND TYRE SERVICES): Half-year to April 30, 1984. Turnover £1.2m (£1.1m). Profit £0.2m (£0.3m). No dividend (same).

STANLEY: Half-year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £1.2m (£1.1m). Profit £0.2m (£0.3m). No dividend (same).

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WEEKS ASSOCIATES: Mr W A Weeks, the chairman, says in his annual report that he expects the current year's results to be well above last year.

CHARLES BAYNES: Agreement reached for the acquisition of Meadows Laundries for £260,000.

KWIL-FIT (TYRES AND TYRE SERVICES): Half-year to April 30, 1984. Turnover £1.2m (£1.1m). Profit £0.2m (£0.3m). No dividend (same).

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Good income from famous five

Anyone who wants to tie up a good assured income now on the back of higher interest rates should take a look at some of the guaranteed income bonds.

The table shows the top-paying five bonds over four and five years. A yield of 9.25 per cent net of tax is equivalent to 13.21 per cent gross. This return beats anything else on offer for the basic rate taxpayer who has no additional income tax liability. There is a chance, that with the present nervousness, particularly in the American market, interest rates will go higher still, but investors who

want to secure a good income over the next few years should take the chance now.

Guaranteed income bonds are particularly popular with the elderly, but as Radio 4's Money Box programme has highlighted, insurance companies have different policies over repayment on the death of the bondholder.

All guaranteed income bonds pay back the capital, of course, as if it was the end of the term, but only a minority, it appears, pay the interest secured up to the date of death.

So if someone dies just before the anniversary of the bond no

interest will be credited for the previous 11 months or whatever. This means a loss of a per cent.

British National Life has just changed its policy and offers the assured interest - so do Abbey Life and Pinnacle. But Continental Life and Liberty Life do not.

According to Mr Don Ramsay, actuary for British National Life some insurance companies use the assured interest not paid out on death to boost the yields they offer.

You should check this important point with the individual company before making your choice from the list above.

Guaranteed income bonds

Four year bonds	% return net of basic rate tax	Minimum investment
Abbey Life	9.25	\$21,500
Continental Life	9.25	\$21,500
Liberty Life	9.0	\$1,000
Imperial Life	9.0	\$2,000
Capital Life	9.0	\$2,000

Five year bonds

Four year bonds	% return net of basic rate tax	Minimum investment
Abbey Life	9.25	\$1,500
Continental Life	9.25	\$1,500
Liberty Life	9.25	\$2,000
Imperial Life	9.25	\$1,000
Capital Life	9.1	\$1,000

9.5 per cent on sums of more than £5,000

Early birds catch tax relief on BES investment funds

The second wave of Business Expansion Schemes is well underway. The latest - The Second Lazard Development Capital Fund - was launched this week. It is seeking £7m (the first fund raised £5m last year) with a minimum subscription of £3,000.

Already stockbroker Laurence Prust, one of the early birds in the start-up/BES field, has introduced its second Alpha Fund, while other funds in our table are still open to investors.

On the face of it there is no need to rush - plenty more contenders are expected by the autumn. The only caveat is that the generous tax concessions available to the private investor who wants to chase his arm only apply to cash actually invested by the managers in the underlying companies by the close of each tax year.

The main attraction of these

funds is that the individual investor can get full tax relief on up to £40,000 a year invested in one of a selection of funds. The catch is that the tax relief can be withdrawn if you sell out within five years.

At best you have to be prepared to tie your cash up for this period - and possibly longer. For there is no guarantee at the end of the period that the shares in the underlying companies can, or will, be marketed. At worst you could lose your money, but since the funds

themselves are spread over a number of different companies and the investor can buy into a number of different funds the idea of total risk is a bit far fetched.

But how is the investor to choose between the funds on offer? It is still too early to judge how last year's crop performed and one year's performance would be no guide anyway. But the element of risk does vary, according to composition. The First Lazard Development Capital Fund, for instance,

contained only two out of 11 situations that could be considered as "start-ups" - completely greenfield operations.

There is a lot of puffing and puffing about charges, too. Laurence Prust slashed the "front end load" to 2.1 per cent on its second generation Alpha Fund, but the new Lazard offering is sticking to 7 per cent up front, plus interest on uninvested cash (most of the money goes in only in the final quarter of the tax year) and the generous share options that are almost always written into BES schemes.

Investors should note that the proportion of their money that goes in charges is not eligible for tax relief.

At the end of the day, however, it will be the investment judgment that matters, rather than the level of charges. Investors puzzling over which BES scheme to go for should spread their risk capital round a selection - or stick a pin in the list provided in the table.

Margaret Drummond

Why gold is going out of fashion

Even in the dentist's chair there is little demand for gold, Sally Dunlop writes. Its magic has been displaced in this era of hard monetarism by the lure of high real interest rates. Failed too is the funk factor - what is the point of fleeing from money in case the financial system is collapsing when so many of the bank funds are owned by the banks themselves?

Butts around the world are agreed - there is little hope of putting up the gold price while Mr Paul Volcker is the star of the US Federal Reserve Board. Until US Treasury bonds, currently yielding 13 per cent, fall to meet inflation at 6 per cent or inflation soars gold will stay out of fashion.

True, jewelry purchases are picking up - but in Britain that depends on the prevailing mood of generosity. More than any other country, the British buy gold jewelry as gifts. Sales of gold bars have been plunging - last year they fell to 27 per cent of 1982 levels. And the VAT are shy of gold coins, since VAT was imposed.

By contrast, sovereign debtors have been positively dumping their gold

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By contrast, sovereign debtors have been positively dumping their gold

Could you turn £1,000 a year into £118,000 in 13 years?

THE TABLE below shows the result of a £1,000 p.a. investment over 13 years in one of the largest U.K. financial institutions. Each year the accumulated is and the new premium are added into the fund. The result is that the fund grows to £118,000 in 13 years. The fund is a regular investment fund of the Company's life during the previous year. Finally, there are eighteen is from which to choose, and there is certain to be at least one performer in any five month period. The figures are pretty staggering and, although the system did have lost money in 1974 at system did not, this loss quickly made up in 1978. Overall results speak for themselves, but you might be tempted to know that, had you invested a similar amount and added the money each year, the best performing fund of previous year, you would have ended up with the less than meagre

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND FUNERALS (Minimum 3 lines)
 Announcements of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Funerals should be sent to the Editor, The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. They should be received by 10.30 a.m. on the day of publication. The charge for each line is £1.00. The minimum charge for a notice is £3.00. Notices should be sent to the Editor, The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. They should be received by 10.30 a.m. on the day of publication. The charge for each line is £1.00. The minimum charge for a notice is £3.00.

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ATTENTION - A book by Attention. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

WILLIAM - A book by William. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

WHITE - A book by White. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

BIRTHS

BARWICK - On June 14, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (Thomas).

ELINGHAM - On June 12, 1984, to Charles and Patricia, a son (James).

FREDMAN - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

HEARBY - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

MAWELL - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

WILLER - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

WINTER - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

MARRIAGES

HARRIS-BURLAND - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

O'NEILL - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

WILLER - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

DEATHS

ADWY - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

BENTLEY - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

BOYLE - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

BURD - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

BUTLER - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

GILBY - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

HOFER - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

NEWMAN - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

TRUMP - On June 12, 1984, to John and Patricia, a son (James).

FOR SALE

22 CARAT GOLDEN EGGS - A rare and beautiful collection. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

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FRID - A rare and beautiful collection. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

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Van Cleef & Arpels

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One diamond and platinum bracelet - A rare and beautiful collection. Available now. Tel: 01-234 5678.

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SECRETARIES

Saturday

Television and radio programmes

Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Daville

Sunday

BBC 1

- 6.20 Open University. Unit 8.25.
- 6.40 The Saturday Picture Show. Cartoons, videos and serials plus coverage of the start of Nick Sanders' attempt to cycle round the coast of Britain. The special guest is Tom O'Connor and a song is sung by Trade.
- 7.40 Trooping the Colour. Live coverage of the parade to mark the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's official birthday. The Queen is accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh as Colonel Grenadier Guards, The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, and The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards. The Queen's Colour of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards is being trooped and the parade is by tradition, into five sections: The Inspection of the Line; The Troop; Trooping the Colour; The March Past; and the Band. The music is played by the Mass Mounted Bands of the Household Cavalry and the Massed Bands of the Guards Division. 12.12 Weather.
- 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.15, 1.40, 2.10, 2.55, 3.20 and 4.10. Coverage of the live coverage of the third day's play in the First Test Match between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston. News summary: 1.40 and 3.40. Motor racing from Silverstone and an interview with Derek Bell: 1.40, 2.10, 2.55, 3.20 and 4.10. Tennis: The Stella Artois Championships at London's Queen's Club: 2.05, 2.40, and 3.10. Racing from Bath: 1.40, 2.10, 2.50, 3.20, 4.10 and 4.30. Athletics: The TSB Women's AAA from Crystal Palace: 4.30. Show: The Royal Shakespeare Company from the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. 5.00 Final Score.
- 5.05 Automator. Another adventure for the Los Angeles lawman who began his career in a video game. (CeeFax titles page 170.)
- 5.55 News with Moira Stuart. 6.05 Sport and regional news.
- 6.10 Pop Quiz presented by Mike Read. The panelists are Paul Young, Toyah, Drummie Zeb, Gary Naylor, Annette Linn and Green.
- 6.40 Film: Flood (1978) starring Robert Culp, Carol Lynley and Richard B. Shal. Disaster movie about a weakening dam that is threatening a small town whose inhabitants seem unconcerned about the impending threat. Directed by Earl Bellamy.
- 6.15 The Val Doonican Show with guests, fellow singers, Charlie Pride and Dana and jazz trio, Cid.
- 9.00 News and Sport. With Moira Stuart.
- 9.15 The Royal International Horse Show introduced from the National Exhibition Centre by David Vine. Coverage of the Radio Rentals Pussycats. The commentators are Raymond Brockmeyer and Stephen Hadley.
- 10.30 Film: Holders (1977) starring James Coburn, Lois Nettleton and Slim Pickens. Drama about an ageing rodeo rider who returns to his home town in New Mexico to find his deserted wife demanding a divorce and his teenage son resentful of his father's neglect. Directed by Steve Hest.
- 12.10 Weather.

TV-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Henry Kelly and Toni Arthur. Bob Wright with a feature on the buying and maintaining cars; news at 7.00 and 8.40; George Best at 7.15; the Greens' dream home at 7.45; cooking with Rude Lee at 8.15. The special guests include Jilly Cooper and Jill Tweedie.
- 8.40 SPLAT with Adam Wide includes Crack-It, James Baker's search for the junior mastermind, and the soap opera, No Adults Allowed.
- 9.25 LWT Information. 9.30 Sweeney Stone. 10.30 No 73. A portrait of fun and games and pop music.
- 12.00 World of Sport introduced by Dicky Davies. The line-up is: 12.05 International Football. Highlights of the first week's matches in the European Championship: 12.45 News followed by the Australian pools news; 12.50 Rallying: the Lloyds Bowmakers RSAC Scottish Rally: 1.00 Olympics: 1.05 The Athletics Championships from the Olympic Coliseum, Los Angeles; 1.15 Basketball: The NBA finals between Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers: 1.40 The TV Size: the 1.45, 2.15, and 2.45 from Sandown and the 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00 races from York.
- 3.10 Boxing: The WBA Light Middleweight Championship bout between Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran, from Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas; 3.50 News round-up; 4.00 Wrestling: the Heavyweight bout between Steve Roper and Steve Roper from the first two rounds of the US Open at Winged Foot, New York; 4.50 Results.
- 5.00 News.
- 5.05 What Kids. The electronics prodigies solve another crime.
- 6.00 The Pyramid Game. Steve Jones presents this competition to test contestants' powers of deduction.
- 6.30 The Grandstand Radio Show. Music and comedy from five funny men.
- 7.00 The Comedians. Non-stop jokes from a succession of stand-up comedians.
- 7.30 Just Amazing! The last in the series of films about a fearless stunt by American daredevil driver, Dar Robinson.
- 8.15 The Price is Right. The final programme in the guess-the-cost competition, presented by Leslie Crowther.
- 9.15 News.
- 9.30 Aspects and Company. This week's guests on the chat show are Bill Wyman, George Segal and Charlotte Rampling.
- 10.15 T.J. Hooker. William Shatner stars as the policeman in an episode entitled Dead Strip.
- 11.15 Tales of the Unexpected: The last of the comic horror stories. The commentators are Raymond Brockmeyer and Stephen Hadley.
- 11.45 London news headlines followed by Thriller: Someone at the Top of the Stairs. Two gliders crash into an old house.
- 12.55 An Evening with Sister Sledge. Highlights of a concert given by the American soul singers followed by Night Thoughts.

Radio 4

- 1.25 Shipping. 6.30 News; Morning News; Farming Today. 7.00 News. 7.10 Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Mark. 7.20 News. 7.25 Weather. 7.30 News. 7.40 Today's Papers. 8.15 On Your Mark. 8.20 News. 8.25 Weather. 8.30 News. 8.40 Today's Papers. 8.45 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Breakaway. 9.10 News and Sport. 9.15 News. 9.20 News. 9.25 News. 9.30 News. 9.35 News. 9.40 News. 9.45 News. 9.50 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.05 News. 10.10 News. 10.15 News. 10.20 News. 10.25 News. 10.30 News. 10.35 News. 10.40 News. 10.45 News. 10.50 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.10 News. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 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